

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to)	
Receive Universal Service Support)	
)	
Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC)	WC Docket No. 09-197
)	
Petition for Limited Designation as)	
An Eligible Telecommunications)	
Carrier in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware,)	
the District of Columbia, Florida,)	
New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina,)	
Tennessee, Texas and Virginia)	
)	

**PINNACLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC
PETITION FOR LIMITED DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN ALABAMA, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE,
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, FLORIDA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW YORK,
NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS AND VIRGINIA**

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February 11, 2013

SUMMARY

Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC (“Pinntel” or “Company”) seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”), pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended (the “Act”) and Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) rules, for the limited purpose of providing wireless services supported by the Universal Service Fund’s Lifeline program. Section 214(e)(6) permits the Commission to grant ETC designation in those states where the state has affirmatively stated an ETC Petitioner is not subject to state jurisdiction. Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia all have stated they lack jurisdiction over wireless service providers and, consequently, Commission review and approval of Pinntel’s Petition is warranted.

As described in greater detail herein, Pinntel satisfies all of the requirements for designation as an ETC and is committed to complying with all of the Commission’s rules and requirements for ETCs providing Lifeline services. Grant of ETC status will be in the public interest as Pinntel’s provision of Lifeline-supported services will further the Commission’s goals of the Lifeline program by increasing the service options available to low-income consumers. Further, Pinntel’s low cost prepaid wireless services will provide an important source of high quality mobile service. Low-income consumers will have a stable communications method where traditional landline service is unavailable or simply not the best option for the consumer. Additionally, the prepaid nature of Pinntel’s services permit consumers to anticipate and control their communications costs. Pinntel’s Lifeline service offering will include a generous number of “free” minutes that are an invaluable resource for cash-strapped consumers and features such as voicemail that are critical to those seeking employment. Designation of the Company as an

ETC will provide consumers with a valuable alternative for obtaining telephone service and this competition should spur other service providers to improve their service offerings to low-income consumers.

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NORTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS AND VIRGINIA**

Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC (“Pinntel” or “Company”), pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended (the “Act”), 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and Section 54.202 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission” or “FCC”), 47 C.F.R. §54.202, hereby requests limited designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia (hereinafter, “Federal Jurisdiction States”), for the sole purpose of receiving universal service

Lifeline support. Pinntel does not request ETC status for the purpose of receiving support from any of the other Universal Service Funds (“USF”), nor does it seek support from the Link Up program.

The Federal Jurisdiction States all have affirmatively stated that they lack jurisdiction or will not assign ETC status to commercial mobile radio service (“CMRS”) providers. Accordingly, the Commission has jurisdiction, pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) to review and grant the Company’s request for designation as an ETC in the Federal Jurisdiction States. As discussed in more detail below, Pinntel meets the requirements for designation as an ETC and is able and prepared to offer the Lifeline-supported services throughout the Federal Jurisdiction States. Granting Pinntel ETC status will benefit the public interest by making the Company’s services available to a broad range of low-income consumers.

I. ABOUT PINNTEL

Pinntel will provide wireless mobile phone services to consumers across the United States.¹ Pinntel will provide domestic voice services, primarily to low-income consumers. As a reseller of wireless services, Pinntel will purchase wireless network infrastructure and wireless transmission facilities from its minority owner Red Pocket, Inc., which, in turn, purchases services from AT&T Wireless on a wholesale basis. Pinntel will resell these services to its customers. Pinntel will provide affordable prepaid mobile phone service, including calling and text messaging, along with user-friendly handsets and high quality customer service. Pinntel’s products and plans will be specially geared toward serving lower income communities, and its service models and pricing plans reflect this mission. Pinntel will

¹ The Company hereby also reports its corporate and trade names, identifiers, and its holding company, operating companies and affiliates in an organizational chart in Exhibit A. In addition, the Company uses Yourlife as a brand for its Lifeline products.

not require service contracts from its customers and it always ensures competitive low pricing for its services and products. By providing affordable service, Pinntel can reach out to those who are often ignored by traditional carriers.

Pinntel will manage all aspects of the customer experience, including setting service pricing, handset selection, marketing materials, and live customer service. Pinntel's prepaid, budget-friendly pricing will give many low-income consumers the option of having basic mobile phone service without the burden of hidden costs, varying monthly charges, or contractual commitments. Customers will be able to customize their mobile phone service to suit their needs with Pinntel's pay-as-you-go rechargeable mobile phone plans.

Pinntel's customer base will be typically low-income consumers and the majority will not have phone service of any kind prior to enrollment. Pinntel's customers will depend on and benefit greatly from Pinntel's inexpensive and flexible pricing plans. Pinntel will not impose credit checks nor require any deposits or contractual commitments. Most of Pinntel's customers will likely turn to Pinntel because they cannot afford the postpaid services provided by traditional wireless carriers. The Company will affirmatively reach out to the low-income sector of the consumer base to offer attractive and affordable communications options. As such, Pinntel will contribute to the expansion of mobile wireless services for low-income consumers and will seek ETC designation in additional states and jurisdictions so that it may continue to expand the service options for low-income consumers.

II. THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONS OF EACH OF THE FEDERAL JURISDICTION STATES HAVE AFFIRMATIVELY STATED THAT THEY DO NOT REGULATE CMRS CARRIERS FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING ETC DESIGNATIONS

Section 214(e)(2) of the Act reserves to state public utility commissions the authority to designate ETC status to requesting entities.² However, Section 214(e)(6) permits the FCC to designate a petitioner as an ETC in cases involving a “common carrier providing telephone exchange service and exchange access that is not subject to the jurisdiction of a State commission.”³ The FCC has stated that before it will consider an ETC application, the entity seeking ETC status must demonstrate that it “is not subject to the jurisdiction of a state commission”⁴ and that the entity must provide an “affirmative statement” from the relevant state commission that the carrier is not subject to the state commission’s jurisdiction.⁵ As demonstrated in the documents attached as Exhibit A, the public utility commission in each of the Federal Jurisdiction States has affirmatively stated that it lacks jurisdiction to designate ETC status. Accordingly, FCC review and approval of the instant application is warranted.

Pinntel is not yet designated as an ETC in any states, but it filed a petition for ETC designation in Hawaii on March 23, 2012 and the Company intends to prepare additional petitions and file where permitted. However, because the state public utility commissions in the Federal Jurisdiction States have specifically and affirmatively denied jurisdiction over CMRS providers for purposes of granting ETC status, Pinntel is not subject to state commission

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

³ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6).

⁴ See *Procedures for FCC Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act*, 12 FCC Rcd 22947 (1997).

⁵ See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas*, 15 FCC Rcd 12208, ¶ 7 (2000).

jurisdiction in any of the states for which it seeks an ETC designation herein. The Commission has jurisdiction to grant ETC status in these states pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Act.

III. PINNTEL MEETS THE COMMISSION’S REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION

Section 54.202 of the Commission’s rules outlines the requirements that must be met before a carrier can be designated as an ETC by the Commission. As discussed in further detail below, Pinntel meets these requirements and ETC designation in the Federal Jurisdiction States is warranted.

a) *Pinntel is a common carrier.*⁶

The Commission has consistently held that providers of wireless services are to be treated as common carriers for regulatory purposes. In addition, section 332(c)(1)(A) of the Act states that CMRS providers will be regulated as common carriers.⁷ Pinntel will provide CMRS telecommunications services and, accordingly, be a common carrier.

b) *Pinntel will provide the Lifeline-eligible services by reselling the services of AT&T Wireless.*

Section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Act states that an ETC must provide services “using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier’s services.”⁸ The Commission’s recent order reforming the Lifeline program granted blanket forbearance from this requirement, subject to conditions, to all ETC petitioners seeking limited ETC designation to participate in the Lifeline program.⁹ The Commission conditioned blanket

⁶ See 47 CFR § 54.201(b).

⁷ See 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(1)(A).

⁸ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

⁹ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital*

forbearance on the petitioner's compliance with certain ETC obligations including: providing 911 and E911 service regardless of activation status and prepaid minutes available, providing E911-compliant handsets and replacing non-compliant handsets, at no charge to the consumer, for Lifeline customers upon the effective date of the *Lifeline Reform Order*.¹⁰ In addition, petitioners are required to file, and have approved, a compliance plan which includes specific information about the petitioner's service offerings and outlines the measures the petitioner will take to implement the obligations established in the *Lifeline Reform Order* as well as other measures to prevent waste, fraud and abuse that the Commission may deem necessary.¹¹ Pinntel commits to complying with these conditions. To this end, Pinntel submitted to the Commission for review a Compliance Plan that meets the requirements of the *Lifeline Reform Order*.¹² Consequently, Pinntel is not required to meet the "own facilities" requirement of Section 214(e)(1)(A).

c) *Pinntel certifies it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support the Company receives.*¹³

Pinntel will provide all of the telecommunications services supported by the Lifeline program¹⁴ and will make the services available to all qualified consumers throughout its designated service area in the Federal Jurisdiction States. The Company seeks designation as an ETC to provide Lifeline service in the rural and non-rural study areas provided in Exhibit C.

Literacy Training, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report And Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11, ¶ 368 (Feb. 6, 2012) ("*Lifeline Reform Order*").

¹⁰ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 373.

¹¹ See *id.*, ¶ 368.

¹² The Pinntel Compliance Plan was originally submitted on June 22, 2012 and most recently revised and re-submitted on December 20, 2012. See Exhibit B.

¹³ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).

¹⁴ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(1).

Pinntel understands that its service area includes the service areas of several rural carriers, however, the public interest factors discussed below and the Commission's precedent in granting ETC designation in such areas justifies this designation as an ETC for purposes only of participation in the Lifeline program.

The Company's services include voice telephony services that provide voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent. Further, Pinntel's service offerings provide its customers with minutes of use for local service at no charge to the customer. The Company will offer a set number of minutes of local service free of charge to its subscribers. The Company's Lifeline offering will provide customers with 250 anytime prepaid minutes per month at no charge, with text messaging at a rate of 1 text per voice minute. In addition, Pinntel plans to offer Lifeline-eligible residents of federal-recognized Tribal lands unlimited voice minutes for \$5.75 with no text messaging or 1,000 voice minutes for \$1.00 with no text messaging.

Lifeline customers can purchase additional bundles of minutes, referred to in Pinntel's general terms and conditions as Replenishment plans. These Replenishment plans, or "top-up" minutes, will be available for purchase at Pinntel's website and at its retail locations, through Red Pocket. Where text messaging is not included in a plan as a separate component, it is available with all Pinntel voice plans at the rate of one (1) text, either sent or received, to one (1) minute of airtime usage. Rates are attached as Exhibit D. In addition, Pinntel's terms and conditions are included on its website at www.pinntel.com.

In addition to free voice services, Pinntel's Lifeline plan will include a free refurbished handset and custom calling features at no charge, including Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-Way Calling, and Voicemail. All plans include domestic long-distance at no extra per minute charge. Calls to 911 emergency services are always free, regardless of service activation or

availability of minutes. Lifeline customers can purchase an upgraded handset. No Lifeline reimbursements will be used to subsidize the cost of the free or upgraded handset. Any phone subsidy comes from Pinntel's ability to purchase low-cost handsets directly from manufacturers or its general revenues, which include substantial non-Lifeline and top-up revenues.

Finally, the Company will not provide toll limitation service ("TLS"). Pinntel, like most wireless carriers, does not differentiate domestic long distance usage from local usage and all usage is paid for in advance. Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, subscribers to such services are not considered to have voluntarily elected to receive TLS.¹⁵

d) *Pinntel has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations.*¹⁶

As discussed in more detail above, Pinntel will utilize the AT&T Wireless network to provide Pinntel's mobile services. The Company has access to the extensive and well-established AT&T Wireless network and facilities and believes that the AT&T Wireless network is capable of managing traffic spikes that may occur during emergency situations and can reroute traffic in the event of damaged facilities. Pinntel also understands that AT&T Wireless has sufficient back-up power to ensure functionality if its external power supply is unavailable.

e) *Pinntel will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards.*¹⁷

Section 54.202(a)(3) of the Commission's rules states that a wireless applicant's commitment to comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service ("CTIA Consumer Code") will satisfy this consumer

¹⁵ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 230.

¹⁶ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).

¹⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(3).

protection and service quality requirement. Pinntel intends to fully comply with applicable consumer protection requirements and commits to comply with the CTIA Consumer Code. Pinntel agrees to comply with the CTIA Consumer Code to ensure it offers its subscribers the highest level of protection and quality service.¹⁸ Pinntel's pledge to provide quality service and voluntarily to comply with this code evidences its commitment to satisfying all of the applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. Pinntel customers can call customer service by dialing 611 from their Pinntel handset and no minutes will be used or decremented for the call. Customers can also call toll-free (888) 993-3888 from any phone to reach customer service. Live customer service operators can be reached between 6:00am and 11pm Monday through Friday and between 6:00am and 10:00pm on Saturday and Sunday (all times Pacific Standard Time). The average wait time for Red Pocket's non-Lifeline customer service calls is currently 1.9 minutes.

f) Pinntel is financially and technically capable of providing Lifeline services in compliance with the Commission's rules

Revised Commission rule 54.202(a)(4), 47 C.F.R. 54.202(a)(4), requires ETC petitioners to demonstrate financial and technical capability to comply with the Commission's Lifeline service requirements.¹⁹ Among the factors the Commission will consider are: a carrier's prior offering of service to non-Lifeline subscribers, the length of time the carrier has been in business, whether the carrier relies exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement to operate, whether the carrier receives revenues from other sources and whether the carrier has been the subject of an enforcement action or ETC revocation proceeding.

¹⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(3).

¹⁹ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 387-388 (revising Commission rule 54.202(a)(4)).

Pinntel receives revenue from a number of sources which are completely independent from the revenue it will receive in the form of Lifeline reimbursements. Pinntel's revenue stream includes income from the sale of non-Lifeline prepaid telecommunications services to customers in almost all states. In addition, Pinntel's minority owner Red Pocket has provided non-Lifeline prepaid domestic and international telecommunications and mobile data services since 2006 (www.goredpocket.com) and has a substantial non-Lifeline customer base. Consequently, Pinntel will not be relying exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement for its operating revenues. Pinntel receives revenues from these wholesale and non-Lifeline retail offerings, and also has access to other financial resources including from its parent company. The Company has not been subject to enforcement sanctions or ETC revocation proceedings in any state.

*(g) Terms and conditions of Pinntel's voice telephony service plans for Lifeline subscribers.*²⁰

As noted in Section III(c), *supra*, Pinntel offers Lifeline subscribers an attractive voice telephony service plan. Pinntel's Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive the same service plans that Pinntel generally makes available to the public. The Company's Lifeline offering will provide customers with 250 anytime prepaid minutes per month at no charge, with text messaging at a rate of 1 text per voice minute. In addition, Pinntel plans to offer Lifeline-eligible residents of federal-recognized Tribal lands unlimited voice minutes for \$5.75 with no text messaging or 1,000 voice minutes for \$1.00 with no text messaging.

Lifeline customers can purchase additional bundles of minutes, referred to in Pinntel's general terms and conditions as Replenishment plans. These Replenishment plans, or "top-up" minutes, will be available for purchase at Pinntel's website and at its retail locations, through Red Pocket. Where text messaging is not included in a plan as a separate component, it

²⁰ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(5).

is available with all Pinntel voice plans at the rate of one (1) text, either sent or received, to one (1) minute of airtime usage. Rates are attached as Exhibit D. In addition, Pinntel's terms and conditions are included on its website at www.pinntel.com.

h) Pinntel will comply with the additional ETC obligations.

Pinntel has implemented processes to meet the Commission's current requirements regarding certification and verification of a customer's qualification for Lifeline service. As described in Pinntel's Compliance Plan, filed on June 22, 2012 and most recently revised and re-submitted on December 20, 2012, the Company has detailed and comprehensive procedures in place to address customer certification and verification requirements as well as those requirements addressing de-enrollment and duplication of service. These procedures comply with the Commission's recently-revised customer certification and verification requirements.²¹ Pinntel will also comply with the annual re-certification and reporting requirements and the Commission's measures to prevent waste, fraud and abuse of Lifeline services.²²

In addition, as part of Pinntel's enrollment process in the Federal Jurisdiction States, Company personnel will inform each Lifeline applicant that he or she may be receiving Lifeline support under another name, and facilitate the applicant's understanding of what constitutes "Lifeline-supported services," and ability to determine whether he or she is already benefiting from Lifeline support, by inquiring of each customer whether they are receiving

²¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.410.

²² See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.416, 54.422; See also *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support; Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Alabama, et al.*, 25 FCC Rcd 17797, ¶ 24 (2010) ("2010 Virgin Mobile ETC Order").

Lifeline service from one of the other major Lifeline providers in the state (e.g., SafeLink, Assurance).

Further, in the Federal Jurisdiction States, Pinntel will not enroll customers at retail locations where Pinntel does not have an agency agreement with the retailer. Pinntel will require an agent retailer to have any employees involved in the enrollment process go through the standard Pinntel training process, same as it would for any other agent. By establishing agency relationships with all of its Company personnel, including future retail outlets, Pinntel meets the “deal directly” requirement adopted in the TracFone Forbearance Order.²³

The Commission determined in the *Lifeline Reform Order* that ETCs may permit agents or representatives to review documentation of consumer program eligibility for Lifeline because “the Commission has consistently found that ‘[l]icensees and other Commission regulatees are responsible for the acts and omissions of their employees and independent contractors.’”²⁴ Because Pinntel is responsible for the actions of all of its employees and agents, including those enrolling customers in any Pinntel owned or affiliated retail locations, and a Pinntel employee will be responsible for overseeing and finalizing every Lifeline enrollment prior to including that customer on an FCC Form 497 for reimbursement, the Company will always “deal directly” with its customers to certify and verify the customer’s Lifeline eligibility.

Pinntel will not collect service deposits for its plans and will not charge a number-portability fee for Lifeline accounts.²⁵ Pinntel will timely pay all applicable federal, state, and local regulatory fees, including universal service and E911 fees.

²³ See Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Forbearance from 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(i), CC Docket no. 96-45, Order, FCC 05-165, ¶19 (2005).

²⁴ *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 110.

²⁵ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(c), (e).

*(i) Pinntel will advertise the availability of its service and charges in a manner reasonably designed to reach Lifeline-eligible consumers and will comply with the Commission's revised rules regarding information to be included in advertisements.*²⁶

Pinntel intends to advertise its Lifeline services using media of general distribution,²⁷ as a means of reaching those consumers that are likely to qualify for Lifeline services.²⁸ The Company will use these advertising media to advertise the availability of its services to Lifeline customers and will expand its advertising efforts if necessary to ensure that Lifeline-eligible customers are aware of the service offerings.²⁹ Pinntel will ensure that all of its Lifeline advertising materials comply with the Commission's revised rule section 54.405(c). Specifically, Pinntel's advertising materials will state, in easily understood language, that: (i) the service is a Lifeline service; (ii) Lifeline is a government assistance program; (iii) the service may not be transferred to someone else; (iv) consumers must meet certain eligibility requirements before enrolling in the Lifeline program; (v) the Lifeline program permits only one Lifeline discount per household; (vi) that documentation is necessary for enrollment; and (vii) Pinntel is the provider of the services. Further, the Company's application/certification form will state that consumers who willfully make a false statement in order to obtain the Lifeline benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.³⁰

²⁶ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.201(d)(2), 54.405(b).

²⁷ See 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(B), 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(2).

²⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(b).

²⁹ See *id.*

³⁰ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 275; section 54.405(c). See also *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Erratum, ¶ 63 (rel. May 16, 2012).

IV. THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BENEFIT FROM GRANTING ETC STATUS TO PINNTEL

The Commission's rules require that, before granting a request for ETC designation, the Commission must find that grant of the designation would be in the public interest.³¹ In determining if the public interest showing has been met, the Commission considers the "benefits of increased consumer choice and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the applicant's service offering."³² In addition, the principal goal of the Lifeline program is to make affordable telecommunications services available to low-income consumers.³³

Similar to the Commission's findings justifying grant of ETC designation to other petitioners, designation of Pinntel as an ETC for Lifeline purposes will further the Commission's goals for the Lifeline program. Specifically, the Company will offer prepaid low cost wireless service to low-income consumers thereby increasing consumer choice by enabling the entry of a provider offering affordable telecommunications services to low-income consumers.³⁴ In addition, increasing consumer choice will spur wireless ETC providers to compete for eligible customers by providing the highest value (e.g., higher quality handsets, customer service).

Further, grant of the application will provide consumers with access to high quality service and the benefits of a mobile service.³⁵ The mobility of the service will be particularly attractive to Lifeline-eligible consumers who may frequently change residences or

³¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(b).

³² See, e.g., *2010 Virgin Mobile ETC Order*, ¶ 6.

³³ See, e.g., *Lifeline and Link-Up*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 19 FCC Rcd 8302 (2004).

³⁴ See, e.g., *Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. Petition for Forbearance from 47 USC §214(e)(1)(A)*, Order, FCC 09-18, ¶ 38 (rel. March 5, 2009) ("2009 Virgin Mobile Forbearance/ETC Order").

³⁵ See *2009 Virgin Mobile Forbearance/ETC Order*, ¶ 38. As discussed above, Pinntel will comply with the Consumer Code for Wireless Service of CTIA – The Wireless Association.

work in migratory jobs. Wireless service therefore offers a stable contact method where traditional landline service would be unavailable or not a viable option. Pinntel's prepaid wireless service is an especially attractive option for low-income consumers because it alleviates customer concerns regarding hidden costs, varying monthly charges and long term contract issues.

In the current economy, many consumers are faced with making difficult choices about how to allocate and spend their limited resources. The ability to meet their communications needs while at the same time anticipating and controlling the associated costs is critical. Pinntel's prepaid service offerings and rechargeable mobile phone plans enable customers to tailor their wireless services to their needs and budgets and the prepaid nature of the service also provides an alternative for "unbanked" consumers. Further, Pinntel will not impose credit checks thereby providing an alternative for those low-income consumers unable to obtain credit for post-paid services provided by traditional carriers.

Pinntel's prepaid mobile calling service package provides low-income consumers with a generous number of included, anytime minutes at no cost to the consumers as well as Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-Way Calling, Basic Voicemail, and calls to 911 services. These "free" minutes and services are an invaluable resource for cash-strapped consumers who may be seeking employment and need a means to contact potential employers. The package is also useful for those consumers that need the ability to stay in touch with children or other family members as well as to contact 911 emergency services when needed. Pinntel's services will provide consumers with a valuable alternative for obtaining telephone service and this competition in turn could spur other service providers to improve their service options.

V. ANTI-DRUG ABUSE CERTIFICATION

Pinntel certifies that no party to this Petition is subject to a denial of federal benefits that includes Commission benefits pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 862.

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Pinntel asserts that grant of the instant Petition for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier is in the public interest and is warranted in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6) of the Act.

Respectfully submitted,



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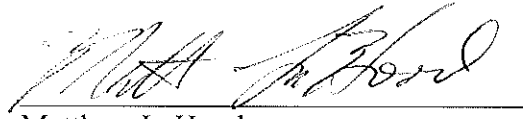
February 11, 2013

DECLARATION

I, Matthew LaHood, Chief Executive Officer of Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC do hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that I have reviewed all of the factual assertions set forth in the foregoing petition for ETC status and that all such statements made therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

To the best of my knowledge, no party to this Petition, nor any of their officers, directors, or persons holding five percent or more of the outstanding stock or shares (voting or non-voting) as specified in Section 1.2002(b) of the Commission's rules are subject to denial of federal benefits, including Commission benefits, pursuant to Section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. § 862.

Executed on February 11, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew LaHood", is written over a horizontal line.

Matthew LaHood
Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT A

Alabama Public Service Commission

Orders

PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC. and PINE
BELT PCS, INC.,

Joint Petitioners

PETITION: For ETC status and/or
clarification regarding the jurisdiction of
the Commission to grant ETC status to
wireless carriers.

DOCKET U-4400

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

In a joint pleading submitted on September 11, 2001, Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. and Pine Belt PCS, Inc. (collectively referred to as "Pine Belt") each notified the Commission of their desire to be designated as universal service eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs") for purposes of providing wireless ETC service in certain of the non-rural Alabama wireline service territories of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Verizon South, Inc. ("Verizon"). The Pine Belt companies noted their affiliation with Pine Belt Telephone Company, a provider of wireline telephone service in rural Alabama, but clarified that they exclusively provide cellular telecommunications and personal communications (collectively referred to as "CMRS" or "wireless") services in their respective service areas in Alabama in accordance with licenses granted by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). The pivotal issue raised in the joint pleading of Pine Belt companies is whether the Commission will assert jurisdiction in this matter given the wireless status of the Pine Belt companies.

As noted in the filing of the Pine Belt companies, state Commissions have primary responsibility for the designation of eligible telecommunications carriers in their respective jurisdictions for universal service purposes pursuant to 47 USC §214(e). The Commission indeed established guidelines and requirements for attaining ETC status in this jurisdiction pursuant to notice issued on October 31, 1997.

For carriers not subject to state jurisdiction, however, §214(e)(6) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides that the FCC shall, upon request, designate such carriers as ETCs in non-rural

service territories if said carriers meet the requirements of §214(e)(1). In an FCC Public Notice released December 29, 1997 (FCC 97-419) entitled "Procedures for FCC designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers pursuant to §214(e)(6) of the Telecommunications Act", the FCC required each applicant seeking ETC designation from the FCC to provide, among other things, "a certification and brief statement of supporting facts demonstrating that the Petitioner is not subject to the jurisdiction of a state Commission."

The Pine Belt companies enclosed with their joint pleading completed ETC application forms as developed by the Commission. In the event the Commission determines that it does not have jurisdiction to act on the Pine Belt request for ETC status, however, the Pine Belt companies seek an affirmative written statement from the Commission indicating that the Commission lacks jurisdiction to grant them ETC status as wireless carriers.

The issue concerning the APSC's jurisdiction over providers of cellular services, broadband personal communications services, and commercial mobile radio services is one that was rather recently addressed by the Commission. The Commission indeed issued a Declaratory Ruling on March 2, 2000, in Docket 26414 which concluded that as the result of certain amendments to the Code of Alabama, 1975 §40-21-120(2) and (1)(a) effectuated in June of 1999, the APSC has no authority to regulate, *in any respect*, cellular services, broadband personal communications services and commercial mobile radio services in Alabama. Given the aforementioned conclusions by the Commission, it seems rather clear that the Commission has no jurisdiction to take action on the Application of the Pine Belt companies for ETC status in this jurisdiction. The Pine Belt companies and all other wireless providers seeking ETC status should pursue their ETC designation request with the FCC as provided by 47 USC §214(e)(6).

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED BY THE COMMISSION, That the Commission's jurisdiction to grant Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status for universal service purposes does not extend to providers of cellular services, broadband personal communications services, and commercial mobile radio services. Providers of such services seeking Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status should accordingly pursue their requests through the Federal Communications Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, That this Order shall be effective as of the date hereof.

DONE at Montgomery, Alabama, this 12th day of March, 2002.

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

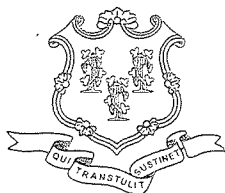
Jim Sullivan, President

Jan Cook, Commissioner

George C. Wallace, Jr., Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Copy

Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

May 25, 2012

In reply please refer to:

UR:Undocketed:PAP

John J. Heitmann
Joshua T. Guyan
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Washington Harbour, Suite 400
3050 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-5108

Re: Request for a Letter Confirming Lack of Jurisdiction Over Wireless Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Petitions

Dear Messrs Heitmann and Guyan:

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority) is in receipt of your March 28, 2012 letter concerning the Authority's jurisdiction over wireless mobile carrier services' rates and charges.

The Authority does not regulate or license wireless carrier services' rates and charges per the Federal Omnibus Budget Act of 1993. Therefore, all applications for eligible telecommunications carriers' status for wireless providers should be made to the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Kimberley J. Santopietro
Executive Secretary



STATE OF DELAWARE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

361 SILVER LAKE BOULEVARD
CANNON BUILDING, SUITE 100
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

TELEPHONE: (302) 739 - 4247
FAX: (302) 739 - 4849

July 15, 2009

L. Charles Keller, Jr.
Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
2300 N Street, NW, Ste. 700
Washington, DC 20037

RE: *Conexions LLC*

Dear Mr. Keller:

You have requested a statement confirming that the Delaware Public Service Commission ("PSC") lacks the jurisdiction to designate your client, Conexions, LLC ("Conexions"), as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e). You have represented that Conexions is a new mobile virtual network operator who seeks to participate in the FCC's Lifeline support program for qualifying low-income consumers.

Under state law, the Delaware PSC does not currently exercise any form of supervisory jurisdiction over wireless commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") providers. *See* 26 *Del. C.* § 102(2) (excluding "telephone service provided by cellular technology, or by domestic public land mobile radio service" from the definition of "public utility"); 26 *Del. C.* § 202(c) (providing that the Delaware Commission has "no jurisdiction over the operation of domestic public land mobile radio service provided by cellular technology service or over rates to be charged for such service or over property, property rights, equipment of facilities employed in such service"). In fact, in granting ETC status in Delaware for Cellco Partnership d/b/a Bell Atlantic Mobile, the FCC accepted the Delaware PSC's confirmation at that time that it did not have jurisdiction under state law to designate CMRS providers as ETCs. *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Cellco Partnership d/b/a Bell Atlantic Mobile Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*; Memorandum Opinion and Order, 16 FCC Rcd. 39 (2000), at ¶¶ 3-4. There have been no changes to state law regarding the PSC's authority over CMRS providers since the *Cellco* decision.

L. Charles Keller, Jr.
July 15, 2009
Page 2

I hope this addresses your request for confirmation that the Delaware Public Service Commission does not have jurisdiction under state law to designate CMRS providers, such as Conexions LLC, as an ETC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce H. Burcat".

Bruce H. Burcat
Executive Director

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
VERIZON DELAWARE INC., TO MODIFY THE)
LIFELINE SERVICE BY ADDING AN INCOME) PSC DOCKET NO. 05-016T
QUALIFIER TO THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA)
(FILED JUNE 17, 2005))

ORDER NO. 6736

This 11th day of October, 2005, the Commission determines and Orders the following:

1. In the jargon of the federal Lifeline/Link-Up program, Delaware is a "federal default State." Delaware has never, by either state law or state regulation, ordained, nor funded, a stand-alone program to provide discounts on basic telephone services charges for low-income subscribers. Consequently, it was not until 1997, when the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") revamped the federal Lifeline/Link-Up program, that Delaware subscribers first became eligible for participation in the federal Lifeline program.¹ And given that in a "federal default State" only federally-raised monies are used to reimburse eligible carriers for the Lifeline and Link-Up discounts, it is the FCC, and not the state commission, that gets to call the tune about who should be eligible to receive these federally-subsidized price reductions.

2. Since 1997, Verizon Delaware Inc. ("VZ-DE") has been designated as an "eligible telecommunications carrier" and has offered

¹See PSC Order No. 4684 (Dec. 16, 1997) (summarizing Delaware history and electing to allow "Tier 2" federal support to eligible Delaware subscribers).

federal Lifeline discounts on the federal list of supported services.² And even though in "default" States, Lifeline is almost an exclusively federal program, VZ-DE has, since 1997, filed at the State level, tariff provisions setting forth its Lifeline offerings.³

3. In 2004, the FCC changed some of the "eligibility" rules describing which subscribers may participate in the federal Lifeline/Link-Up program.⁴ In particular, the 2004 amendments added additional programs to the list of "eligible" programs where participation confers federal default Lifeline/Link-Up eligibility.⁵ The 2004 amendments also introduced an additional eligibility criteria premised on the subscriber's household income.⁶ Eligible telecommunications carriers, such as VZ-DE, were given one year to implement this new, additional income-based eligibility criteria.⁷

4. To implement these changes prescribed by the FCC, VZ-DE initially filed revisions to the Lifeline and Link-Up portions of its

²See PSC Order No. 4680 (Dec. 17, 1997) ("ETC" designation for VZ-DE). See also PSC Dckt. No. 97-023T (initial Lifeline tariff filing by VZ-DE).

³From December 2000 through December 2003, VZ-DE offered, under its state tariff, an "expanded" Lifeline program for Delaware. The discounts under such program exceeded the Tiers 1 & 2 levels normally available in a default State. VZ-DE offered this expanded program to fulfill a condition imposed by the FCC in approving the Bell Atlantic-GTE merger. See PSC Order No. 6317 (Dec. 9, 2003) (explaining content and cause of this expanded Lifeline offering). Whether Delaware remained a "default State" during this period when VZ-DE subsidized the deeper discounts is an issue that need now be explored or resolved. This "expanded" program ended in December 2003.

⁴In the Matter of Lifeline and Link-Up, Report and Order and Further NPRM, 19 FCC Rcd. 8302 (FCC 2004) ("Lifeline Order").

⁵47 C.F.R. §§ 54.409(b) (Lifeline eligibility criteria in "default" State); 54.415(b) (Link-Up eligibility criteria in "default" State).

⁶47 C.F.R. §§ 54.409(b), 54.410 (Lifeline); 54.415(b), 54.416 (Link-Up).

⁷47 C.F.R. §§ 54.410(a)(ii), 54.416.

State tariff. These changes incorporated into the State tariff provisions the expanded list of "eligibility-conferring" programs.⁸ At the same time, the Commission Staff began discussions with VZ-DE to determine whether, under the applicable federal default rules, it was appropriate for VZ-DE to continue to include in its State tariff Lifeline provisions language that conditioned Lifeline eligibility on the subscriber foregoing the ability to purchase many optional or vertical services.⁹ Eventually, VZ-DE revised its State tariff Lifeline provisions to delete the questioned restrictions.¹⁰ Then in June 2005, VZ-DE filed another Tariff revision to reflect its implementation of the household-income criteria for eligibility for Lifeline and Link-Up discounts.¹¹ Finally, on September 9, 2005, VZ-DE submitted another set of revised tariff sheets reflecting further textual revisions, as originally suggested by Staff. In part, these final changes sought to make the State tariff's description of how VZ-DE would administer its Lifeline/Link-Up program to more closely parallel the governing federal default rules.¹²

⁸See PSC Dckt. No. 04-017T (filed July 26, 2004; eff. July 27, 2004).

⁹That restriction - limiting Lifeline subscribers to a small group of designated vertical services - had been a continual part of VZ-DE's state-tariffed Lifeline offerings since 1997. In its Lifeline Order, the FCC expressed its belief that "any restriction on the purchase of vertical services may discourage qualified consumers from enrolling and may serve as a barrier to participation in the [Lifeline] program. Lifeline Order at ¶ 53.

¹⁰See PSC Dckt. No. 05-008T (filed April 8, 2005; eff. April 16, 2005).

¹¹See PSC Dckt. No. 05-016T (filed June 17, 2005; eff. June 22, 2005).

¹²See PSC Dckt. No. 05-016T, amended tariff sheets filed on September 9, 2005 but with effective date of June 22, 2005).

5. The Commission enters this Order not so much to "approve" the various Lifeline filings made by VZ-DE but to recount the course of the filings made since the FCC changed its federal Lifeline/Link-Up program in 2004. Indeed, given that Delaware is a "default" State, VZ-DE's Lifeline/Link-Up offerings are governed more by the federal default rules than by any "approved" State tariff provision. Any State tariff provision that might conflict with a federal default rule would necessarily have to yield. However, the Commission will accept the Lifeline and Link-Up tariff filings lodged by VZ-DE. The Commission believes that VZ-DE's last submission (in September 2005) sets forth a Lifeline and Link-Up offering that is consistent with the federal default rules. However, the filing and acceptance of the State tariff provisions should not be seen as foreclosing any later challenge that VZ-DE's program falls short of the federal directives.

Now, therefore, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That, as explained in the body of this Order, the Commission accepts the tariff filings made by Verizon Delaware Inc., to implement its responsibilities to provide federal Lifeline and Link-Up in this "federal default" jurisdiction. In particular, the Commission now accepts the tariff revision filing made September 9, 2005 pertaining to the following leaves in P.S.C.-Del.-No. 1:

Section 20D, Fourteenth Revised Sheet 1 (Link-Up);

Section 20D, Fifth Revised Sheet 2 (Link-Up); and

Section 20E, Eighth Revised Sheet 2 (Lifeline).

2. That the Commission reserves the jurisdiction and authority to enter such further Orders in this matter as may be deemed necessary or proper.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/ Arnetta McRae
Chair

Vice Chair

/s/ Joann T. Conaway
Commissioner

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Dallas Winslow
Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Norma J. Sherwood
Acting Secretary



Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
1333 H Street, N.W., 2nd Floor, West Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 626-5100
www.dcpsc.org

March 27, 2012

Via First Class Mail

John J. Heitmann and Joshua T. Guyan
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Washington Harbour Suite 400
3050 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Dear Mr. Heitmann and Mr. Guyan:

Thank you for your March 23, 2012 letter requesting information on whether the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia ("Commission") designates wireless telecommunications carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETC") for the purposes of receiving federal universal service funding. Please be advised that, pursuant to section 34-2006(b) of the District of Columbia Code, the Commission does not have jurisdiction over wireless carriers. Thus, the Commission has no authority to designate wireless telecommunications carriers as ETCs.

Attached please find a copy of the relevant section of the District of Columbia Code for your information. Should you need anything further, please contact Lara Walt at 202-626-9191 or lwalt@psc.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Richard A. Beverly".

Richard A. Beverly
General Counsel

Enclosure



D.C. Council Home

Home Search Help ©



Welcome to the online source for the District of Columbia Official Code

DC ST § 34-2006

Formerly cited as DC ST 1981 § 43-1456

DC ST § 34-2006

Formerly cited as DC ST 1981 § 43-1456

District of Columbia Official Code 2001 Edition Currentness

Division V. Local Business Affairs

Title 34. Public Utilities.

§ Subtitle V. Telecommunications.

§ Chapter 20. Telecommunications Competition.

➔ § 34-2006. Exemptions.

(a) This chapter shall not apply to cable television services performed pursuant to an existing cable television franchise agreement with the District of Columbia which is in effect on September 9, 1996. To the extent that a cable television company seeks to provide local exchange services within the District of Columbia, such company shall be regulated under the provisions of this chapter for their local exchange services.

(b) Pursuant to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, this chapter shall not apply to licensed or unlicensed wireless services authorized by the Federal Communications Commission operating in the District of Columbia.

(c) This chapter shall not:

- (1) Apply to the provision, rates, charges, or terms of service of Voice Over Internet Protocol Service or Internet Protocol-enabled Service;
- (2) Alter the authority of the Commission to enforce the requirements as are otherwise provided for, or allowed by, federal law, including the collection of Telecommunications Relay Service fees and universal service fees;
- (3) Alter the authority of the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications with respect to the provision of video services in the District of Columbia; or
- (4) Alter the Commission's existing authority over the regulation of circuit-switched local exchange services in the District of Columbia.

CREDIT(S)

(Sept. 9, 1996, D.C. Law 11-154, § 7, 43 DCR 3736; June 5, 2008, D.C. Law 17-165, § 3(c), 55 DCR 5171.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 43-1456.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 17-165 added subsec. (c).

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 11-154, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 34-2001.

For Law 17-165, see notes following § 34-403.

References in Text

The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, referred to in (b), is Pub. L. 104-104, which is codified throughout Title 47 of the United States Code.

DC CODE § 34-2006

Current through January 11, 2012

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STATE OF FLORIDA



GENERAL COUNSEL
S. CURTIS KISER
(850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

October 24, 2011

Ms. Kasey C. Chow
Lance J.M. Steinhart, P.C.
Attorney At Law
1725 Windward Concourse
Suite 150
Alpharetta, GA 30005


Re: Undocketed – Q Link Wireless LLC's ETC Designation

Dear Ms. Chow:

We received your October 18, 2011 letter advising that Q Link Wireless LLC, a commercial mobile radio service provider, wish to seek designation as an ETC in Florida. You also requested an affirmative statement that the Florida Public Service Commission no longer assert jurisdiction to designate commercial mobile radio service providers as eligible telecommunication carriers in Florida.

This letter acknowledges that the revisions to Chapter 364, Florida Statutes, changed the Commission's jurisdiction regarding telecommunications companies. I direct your attention to Chapter 364, Florida Statutes, for the proposition that the Federal Communications Commission, rather than this Commission is the appropriate agency to consider Q Link Wireless LLC's bid for ETC status.

Sincerely,


S. Curtis Kiser
General Counsel

cc: Beth W. Salak, Director, Division of Regulatory Analysis
Robert J. Casey, Public Utilities Supervisor, Division of Regulatory Analysis
Adam J. Teitzman, Attorney Supervisor, Office of the General Counsel
Ann Cole, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Amy L. Ignatius

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND SECRETARY
Debra A. Howland



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

March 28, 2011

RE: ETC Certification in New Hampshire

The federal Universal Service Fund (USF) was created by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promote the availability of quality services at just and reasonable rates to all consumers including low-income customers and those in high cost areas and to increase nationwide access to advanced services in schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. To qualify for universal service funding a carrier must first be certified as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) by the state public utilities commission or, if the state does not assert this authority, by the FCC. *See* 47 U.S.C. §214 (e).

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission maintains authority to determine whether landline telecommunications carriers qualify as ETCs. Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 362:6, the Commission has no jurisdiction over mobile radio communications services. Consequently, the state declines jurisdiction over the certification of wireless carriers as ETCs, leaving that responsibility to the FCC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Anne Ross".

F. Anne Ross
General Counsel
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

THREE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA, ALBANY, NY 12223-1350

www.dps.state.ny.us

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GARRY A. BROWN
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ROBERT E. CURRY JR.
JAMES L. LAROCCA
Commissioners



PETER MCGOWAN
General Counsel

JACLYN A. BRILLING
Secretary

July 28, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: i-wireless CMRS Jurisdiction

We have received a letter from i-wireless, LLC (i-wireless), requesting a statement that the New York State Public Service Commission does not exercise jurisdiction over CMRS providers for the purpose of making determinations regarding Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designations under section 214 (e)(6) of 47 U.S.C. In response to this request, please be advised that section 5 (6)(a) of the New York State Public Service Law provides that:

Application of the provisions of this chapter to cellular telephone services is suspended unless the commission, no sooner than one year after the effective date of this subdivision, makes a determination, after notice and hearing, that suspension of the application of provisions of this chapter shall cease to the extent found necessary to protect the public interest.

The New York State Public Service Commission has not made a determination as of this date that regulation should be reinstituted under section 5 (6)(a) of the Public Service Law. Consequently, based on the representation by i-wireless that it is a mobile virtual network operator reselling wireless services, i-wireless would not be subject to New York State Public Service Commission jurisdiction for the purpose of making an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation.

Very truly yours,

Maurkeen J. McCauley
Maurkeen J. McCauley
Assistant Counsel

McCauley

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. P-100, SUB 133o

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Designation of Carriers Eligible for Universal)
Carrier Support) ORDER GRANTING PETITION

BY THE COMMISSION: On August 22, 2003, North Carolina RSA3 Cellular Telephone Company, d/b/a Carolina West (Carolina West), a commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) provider, filed a Petition seeking an affirmative declaratory ruling that the Commission lacks jurisdiction to designate CMRS carrier eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status for the purposes of receiving federal universal service support.

In support of its Petition, Carolina West stated that it was a CMRS provider authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide cellular mobile radio telephone service in North Carolina, and that the FCC had clearly recognized that CMRS carriers such as Carolina West may be designated as ETCs. ETC status is necessary for a provider to be eligible to receive universal service support. Section 214(e)(6) of the Telecommunications Act provides that if a state commission determines that it lacks jurisdiction over a class of carriers, the FCC is charged with making the ETC determination. The FCC has stated that, in order for the FCC to consider requests pursuant to this provision, a carrier must provide an "affirmative statement" from the state commission or court of competent jurisdiction that the state lacks jurisdiction to perform the designation. To date, several state commissions have declined to exercise such jurisdiction.

North Carolina has excluded CMRS from the definition of "public utility," See, G.S. 82-3(23). Pursuant to this, the Commission issued its Order Concerning Deregulation of Wireless Providers in Docket Nos. P-100, Sub 114 and Sub 124 on August 28, 1995, concluding that the Commission no longer has jurisdiction over cellular services. Accordingly, Carolina West has now requested the Commission to issue an Order stating that it does not have jurisdiction to designate CMRS carriers ETC status for the purposes of receiving federal universal service support.

WHEREUPON, the Commission reaches the following

CONCLUSIONS

After careful consideration, the Commission concludes that it should grant Carolina West's Petition and issue an Order stating that it lacks jurisdiction to designate ETC status

for CMRS carriers. As noted above, in its August 28, 1995, Order in Docket Nos. P-100, Sub 114 and Sub 124, the Commission observed that G.S. 62-5(23)), enacted on July 29, 1995, has removed cellular services, radio common carriers, personal communications services, and other services then or in the future constituting a mobile radio communications service from the Commission's jurisdiction. 47 USC 3(41) defines a "state commission" as a body which "has regulatory jurisdiction with respect to the intrastate operation of carriers." Pursuant to 47 USC 214(e)(6), if a state commission determines that it lacks jurisdiction over a class of carriers, the FCC must determine which carriers in that class may be designated as ETCs. Given these circumstances, it follows that the Commission lacks jurisdiction over CMRS services and the appropriate venue for the designation of ETC status for such services is with the FCC. Accord., Order Granting Petition, ALLTEL Communications, Inc., June 24, 2003.

IT IS, THEREFORE, SO ORDERED.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 28th day of August, 2003.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Patricia Swenson

Patricia Swenson, Deputy Clerk

W002303.01

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 11, 2003

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF ADVANTAGE CELLULAR
SYSTEMS, INC. TO BE DESIGNATED AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

)
)
)
)
)

DOCKET NO.
02-01245

ORDER

This matter came before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Deborah Taylor Tate and Director Pat Miller of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned in this docket, at the regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on January 27, 2003, for consideration of the *Application of Advantage Cellular Systems, Inc. To Be Designated As An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("Application")* filed on November 21, 2002.

Background

Advantage Cellular Systems, Inc. ("Advantage") is a commercial mobile radio service provider ("CMRS") seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 214 and 254. In its *Application*, Advantage asserts that it seeks ETC status for the entire study area of Dekalb Telephone Cooperative, Inc., a rural cooperative telephone company. Advantage maintains that it meets all the necessary requirements for ETC status and therefore is eligible to receive universal service support throughout its service area.

The January 27, 2003 Authority Conference

During the regularly scheduled Authority Conference on January 27, 2003, the panel of Directors assigned to this docket deliberated Advantage's *Application*. Of foremost consideration was the issue of the Authority's jurisdiction. The panel unanimously found that the Authority lacked

jurisdiction over Advantage for ETC designation purposes.¹

This conclusion was implicitly premised on Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104, which provides that:

The Authority has general supervisory and regulatory power, jurisdiction and control over all public utilities and also over their property, property rights, facilities, and franchises, so far as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

For purposes of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104, the definition of public utilities specifically excludes, with certain exceptions not relevant to this case, "[a]ny individual, partnership, copartnership, association, corporation or joint stock company offering domestic public cellular radio telephone service authorized by the federal communications commission."

The Authority's lack of jurisdiction over CMRS providers implicates 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), which addresses the provision of universal service. Where common carriers seeking universal service support are not subject to a state regulatory commission's jurisdiction, 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6) authorizes the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to perform the ETC designation.²

¹ This finding is not inconsistent with the Authority's decision in *In re Universal Service Generic Contested Case*, Docket 97-05222, *Interim Order on Phase I of Universal Service*, pp. 53-57 (May 20, 1998), in which the Authority required interstate telecommunications carriers to contribute to the Interstate Universal Service Fund including telecommunications carriers not subject to authority of the TRA. The decision in Docket No. 97-00888 was based primarily on 47 U.S.C. § 254(f) which authorizes states to adopt regulations not inconsistent with the Federal Communications Commission's rules on Universal Service and specifically requires every telecommunications carrier that provides interstate telecommunications services to contribute to the preservation and advancement of universal service in that state. The *Interim Order* was issued prior to the effective date of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6).

² 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6) states:

(6) Common carriers not subject to state commission jurisdiction

In the case of a common carrier providing telephone exchange service and exchange access that is not subject to the jurisdiction of a State commission, the Commission shall upon request designate such a common carrier that meets the requirements of paragraph (1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the Commission consistent with applicable Federal and State law. Upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, the Commission may, with respect to an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated under this paragraph, so long as each additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of paragraph (1). Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the Commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest.

As a matter of "state-federal comity," the FCC requires that carriers seeking ETC designation "first consult with the state commission to give the state commission an opportunity to interpret state law."³ Most carriers that are not subject to a state regulatory commission's jurisdiction seeking ETC designation must provide the FCC "with an affirmative statement from a court of competent jurisdiction or the state commission that it lacks jurisdiction to perform the designation."⁴

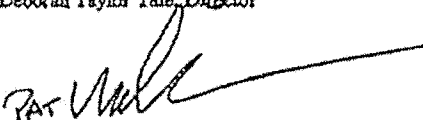
The panel noted that the FCC is the appropriate forum for Advantage to pursue ETC status pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6). This Order shall serve as the above mentioned affirmative statement required by the FCC.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Application of Advantage Cellular Systems, Inc. To Be Designated As An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier is dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

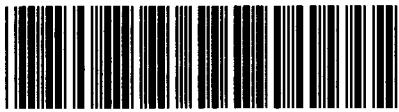

Sara Kyle, Chairman


Deborah Taylor Tate, Director

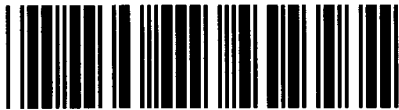

Pat Miller, Director

³ *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Bd. on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 95-45, *Twelfth Report and Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 15 F.C.R. 12208, 12264, § 113 (June 30, 2000).

⁴ *See id.* (The "affirmative statement of the state commission may consist of any duly authorized letter, comment, or state commission order indicating that it lacks jurisdiction to perform designations over a particular carrier.")



Control Number: 40561



Item Number: 8

Addendum StartPage: 0

PROJECT NO. 40561

**RULEMAKING TO AMEND §
SUBSTANTIVE RULE 26.418 RELATING §
TO DESIGNATION OF COMMON §
CARRIERS AS ELIGIBLE §
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS §
TO RECEIVE FEDERAL UNIVERSAL §
SERVICE FUNDS §**

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF TEXAS

2012 NOV 21 AM 11:37
FILED CLERK

**ORDER ADOPTING AMENDMENT TO §26.418
AS APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 16, 2012 OPEN MEETING**

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) adopts an amendment to §26.418, relating to Designation of Common Carriers as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers to Receive Federal Universal Service Funds, with no changes to the proposed text as published in the August 31, 2012, issue of the *Texas Register* (37 TexReg 6874). The amendment will exclude commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) resellers from eligibility for designation by the commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC). Instead, a CMRS reseller will be able to seek designation as an ETC by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Project Number 40561 is assigned to this proceeding.

The commission did not receive any comments on the proposed amendment.

The amendment is adopted under the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Texas Utilities Code Annotated §14.002 (West 2007 and Supp. 2012) (PURA), which provides the commission with the authority to make and enforce rules reasonably required in the exercise of its powers and jurisdiction; and specifically §51.001, which provides that it is the policy of this state to promote diversity of telecommunications providers and interconnectivity; encourage a fully competitive

telecommunications marketplace; and maintain a wide availability of high quality interoperable, standards-based telecommunications services at affordable rates.

Cross Reference to Statutes: PURA §§14.002 and 51.001.

§26.418. Designation of Common Carriers as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers to Receive Federal Universal Service Funds.

- (a) **Purpose.** This section provides the requirements for the commission to designate common carriers as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to receive support from the federal universal service fund (FUSF) pursuant to 47 United States Code (U.S.C.) §214(e) (relating to Provision of Universal Service). In addition, this section provides guidelines for rural and non-rural carriers to meet the federal requirements of annual certification for FUSF support criteria and, if requested or ordered, for the disaggregation of rural carriers' FUSF support.
- (b) **Applicability.** This section applies to a common carrier seeking designation as an ETC, except for commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) resellers. A CMRS reseller may not seek designation from the commission, but instead may seek designation as an ETC by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This section also applies to a common carrier that has been designated by the commission as an ETC, including a CMRS reseller.
- (c) **Service areas.** The commission may designate ETC service areas according to the following criteria.
- (1) **Non-rural service area.** To be eligible to receive federal universal service support in non-rural areas, a carrier must provide federally supported services pursuant to 47 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §54.101 (relating to

Supported Services for Rural, Insular, and High Cost Areas) throughout the area for which the carrier seeks to be designated an ETC.

- (2) **Rural service area.** In the case of areas served by a rural telephone company, as defined in §26.404 of this title (relating to Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC) Universal Service Plan), a carrier must provide federally supported services pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.101 throughout the study area of the rural telephone company in order to be eligible to receive federal universal service support.

- (d) **Criteria for determination of ETCs.** A common carrier shall be designated as eligible to receive federal universal service support if it:

- (1) offers the services that are supported by the federal universal service support mechanisms under 47 C.F.R. §54.101 either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services; and
- (2) advertises the availability of and charges for such services using media of general distribution.

- (e) **Criteria for determination of receipt of federal universal service support.** In order to receive federal universal service support, a common carrier must:

- (1) meet the requirements of subsection (d) of this section;
- (2) offer Lifeline Service to qualifying low-income consumers in compliance with 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E (relating to Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers); and

- (3) offer toll limitation services in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §54.400 (relating to Terms and Definitions) and §54.401 (relating to Lifeline Defined).

(f) **Designation of more than one ETC.**

- (1) Non-rural service areas. In areas not served by rural telephone companies, as defined in §26.404 of this title, the commission shall designate, upon application, more than one ETC in a service area so long as each additional carrier meets the requirements of subsection (c)(1) of this section and subsection (d) of this section.
- (2) Rural service areas. In areas served by rural telephone companies, as defined in §26.404 of this title, the commission may designate as an ETC a carrier that meets the requirements of subsection (c)(2) of this section and subsection (d) of this section if the commission finds that the designation is in the public interest.

(g) **Proceedings to designate ETCs.**

- (1) At any time, a common carrier may seek commission approval to be designated an ETC for a requested service area.
- (2) In order to receive support under this section for exchanges purchased from an unaffiliated carrier, the acquiring ETC shall file an application, within 30 days after the date of the purchase, to amend its ETC service area to include those geographic areas that are eligible for support.
- (3) If an ETC receiving support under this section sells an exchange to an unaffiliated carrier, it shall file an application, within 30 days after the date of the sale, to

amend its ETC designation to exclude from its designated service area those exchanges for which it was receiving support.

(h) **Application requirements and commission processing of applications.**

(1) **Requirements for notice and contents of application.**

(A) Notice of application. Notice shall be published in the *Texas Register*.

The presiding officer may require additional notice. Unless otherwise required by the presiding officer or by law, the notice shall include at a minimum a description of the service area for which the applicant seeks eligibility, the proposed effective date of the designation, and the following statement: "Persons who wish to comment on this application should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas by (specified date, ten days before the proposed effective date). Requests for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or you may call the Public Utility Commission's Customer Protection Division at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136, or use Relay Texas (800) 735-2989 to reach the commission's toll free number (888) 782-8477."

(B) Contents of application for each common carrier seeking ETC designation.

A common carrier that seeks to be designated as an ETC shall file with the commission an application complying with the requirements of this

section. In addition to copies required by other commission rules, one copy of the application shall be delivered to the commission's Regulatory Division and one copy shall be delivered to the Office of Public Utility Counsel. The application shall:

- (i) show that the applicant offers each of the services that are supported by the FUSF support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. §254(c) (relating to Universal Service) either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services throughout the service area for which it seeks designation as an ETC;
- (ii) show that the applicant assumes the obligation to offer each of the services that are supported by the FUSF support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. §254(c) to any consumer in the service area for which it seeks designation as an ETC;
- (iii) show that the applicant advertises the availability of, and charges for, such services using media of general distribution;
- (iv) show the service area in which the applicant seeks designation as an ETC;
- (v) contain a statement detailing the method and content of the notice the applicant has provided or intends to provide to the public regarding the application and a brief statement explaining why the proposed notice is reasonable and in compliance with applicable law;

- (vi) contain a copy of the text of the notice;
 - (vii) contain the proposed effective date of the designation; and
 - (viii) contain any other information which the applicant wants considered in connection with the commission's review of its application.
- (C) Contents of application for each common carrier seeking ETC designation and receipt of federal universal service support. A common carrier that seeks to be designated as an ETC and receive federal universal service support shall file with the commission an application complying with the requirements of this section. In addition to copies required by other commission rules, one copy of the application shall be delivered to the commission staff and one copy shall be delivered to the Office of Public Utility Counsel. The application shall:
- (i) comply with the requirements of subparagraph (B) of this paragraph;
 - (ii) show that the applicant offers Lifeline Service to qualifying low-income consumers in compliance with 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E; and
 - (iii) show that the applicant offers toll limitation services in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §54.400 and §54.401.
- (2) **Commission processing of application.**
- (A) Administrative review. An application considered under this section may be reviewed administratively unless the presiding officer, for good cause,

determines at any point during the review that the application should be docketed.

- (i) The effective date shall be no earlier than 30 days after the filing date of the application or 30 days after notice is completed, whichever is later.
- (ii) The application shall be examined for sufficiency. If the presiding officer concludes that material deficiencies exist in the application, the applicant shall be notified within ten working days of the filing date of the specific deficiency in its application. The earliest possible effective date of the application shall be no less than 30 days after the filing of a sufficient application with substantially complete information as required by the presiding officer. Thereafter, any deadlines shall be determined from the 30th day after the filing of the sufficient application and information or from the effective date if the presiding officer extends that date.
- (iii) While the application is being administratively reviewed, the commission staff and the staff of the Office of Public Utility Counsel may submit requests for information to the telecommunications carrier. Three copies of all answers to such requests for information shall be provided to the commission staff and the Office of Public Utility Counsel within ten days after receipt of the request by the telecommunications carrier.

- (iv) No later than 20 days after the filing date of the application or the completion of notice, whichever is later, interested persons may provide the commission staff with written comments or recommendations concerning the application. The commission staff shall and the Office of Public Utility Counsel may file with the presiding officer written comments or recommendations regarding the application.
 - (v) No later than 35 days after the proposed effective date of the application, the presiding officer shall issue an order approving, denying, or docketing the application.
- (B) Approval or denial of application.
- (i) An application filed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection shall be approved by the presiding officer if the application meets the following requirements:
 - (I) the provision of service constitutes the services that are supported by the FUSF support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. §254(c);
 - (II) the applicant will provide service using either its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services;
 - (III) the applicant advertises the availability of, and charges for, such services using media of general distribution;
 - (IV) notice was provided as required by this section;

- (V) the applicant satisfies the requirements contained in subsection (c) of this section; and
 - (VI) if, in areas served by a rural telephone company, the ETC designation is consistent with the public interest.
- (ii) An application filed pursuant to paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection shall be approved by the presiding officer if the application meets the following requirements:
- (I) the applicant has satisfied the requirements set forth in clause (i) of this subparagraph;
 - (II) the applicant offers Lifeline Service to qualifying low-income consumers in compliance with 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E; and
 - (III) the applicant offers toll limitation services in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §54.400 and §54.401.
- (C) Docketing. If, based on the administrative review, the presiding officer determines that one or more of the requirements have not been met, the presiding officer shall docket the application.
- (D) Review of the application after docketing. If the application is docketed, the effective date of the application shall be automatically suspended to a date 120 days after the applicant has filed all of its direct testimony and exhibits, or 155 days after the proposed effective date, whichever is later. Three copies of all answers to requests for information shall be filed with the commission within ten days after receipt of the request. Affected

persons may move to intervene in the docket, and a hearing on the merits shall be scheduled. A hearing on the merits shall be limited to issues of eligibility. The application shall be processed in accordance with the commission's rules applicable to docketed cases.

- (E) **Waiver.** In the event that an otherwise ETC requests additional time to complete the network upgrades needed to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation, the commission may grant a waiver of these service requirements upon a finding that exceptional circumstances prevent the carrier from providing single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation. The period for the waiver shall not extend beyond the time that the commission deems necessary for that carrier to complete network upgrades to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation services.

- (i) **Designation of ETC for unserved areas.** If no common carrier will provide the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. §254(c) to an unserved community or any portion thereof that requests such service, the commission, with respect to intrastate services, shall determine which common carrier or carriers are best able to provide such service to the requesting unserved community or portion thereof and shall order such carrier or carriers to provide such service for that unserved community or portion thereof.

- (j) **Relinquishment of ETC designation.** A common carrier may seek to relinquish its ETC designation.
- (1) **Area served by more than one ETC.** The commission shall permit a common carrier to relinquish its designation as an ETC in any area served by more than one ETC upon:
- (A) written notification not less than 90 days prior to the proposed effective date that the common carrier seeks to relinquish its designation as an ETC;
 - (B) determination by the commission that the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers can offer federally supported services to the relinquishing carrier's customers; and
 - (C) determination by the commission that sufficient notice of relinquishment has been provided to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers.
- (2) **Area where the common carrier is the sole ETC.** In areas where the common carrier is the only ETC, the commission may permit it to relinquish its ETC designation upon:
- (A) written notification not less than 90 days prior to the proposed effective date that the common carrier seeks to relinquish its designation as an ETC; and
 - (B) commission designation of a new ETC for the service area or areas.

- (k) **Rural and non-rural carriers' requirements for annual certification to receive FUSF support.** A common carrier serving a rural or non-rural study area shall comply with the following requirements for annual certification for the receipt of FUSF support.
- (1) **Annual certification.** Common carriers must provide the commission with an affidavit annually, on or before September 1st of each year, which certifies that the carrier is complying with the federal requirements for the receipt of FUSF support. Upon receipt and acceptance of the affidavits filed on or before September 1st each year, the commission will certify these carriers' eligibility for FUSF to the FCC and the Federal Universal Service Fund Administrator by October 1st each year.
 - (2) **Failure to file.** Common carriers failing to file an affidavit by September 1st may still be certified by the commission for annual FUSF. However, the carrier is ineligible for support until the quarter following the federal universal service administrator's receipt of the commission's supplemental submission of the carrier's compliance with the federal requirements.
 - (3) **Supplemental certification.** For carriers not subject to the annual certification process, the schedule set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.313 and 47 C.F.R. §54.314(d) for the filing of supplemental certifications shall apply.
 - (4) **Recommendation for Revocation of FUSF support certification.** The commission may recommend the revocation of the FUSF support certification of any carrier that it determines has not complied with the federal requirements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §254(e) and will review any challenge to a carrier's FUSF

support certification and make an appropriate recommendation as a result of any such review.

- (l) **Disaggregation of rural carriers' FUSF support.** Common carriers serving rural study areas must comply with the following requirements regarding disaggregation of FUSF support.
 - (1) **Election by May 15, 2002.** On or before May 15, 2002, all rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) may notify the commission of one of the following elections regarding FUSF support. This election will remain in place for four years from the effective date of certification, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.315, unless the commission, on its own motion, or upon the motion of the rural ILEC or an interested party, requires a change to the elected disaggregation plan:
 - (A) a rural ILEC may choose to certify to the commission that it will not disaggregate at this time;
 - (B) a rural ILEC may seek disaggregation of its FUSF support by filing a targeted plan with the commission that meets the criteria in paragraph (3) of this subsection, subject to the commission's approval of the plan;
 - (C) a rural ILEC may self-certify a disaggregation targeted plan that meets the criteria in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, disaggregate support to the wire center level or up to no more than two cost zones, or mirror a plan for disaggregation that has received prior commission approval; or
 - (D) if the rural ILEC serves a study area that is served by another carrier designated as an ETC prior to the effective date of 47 C.F.R. §54.315,

(June 19, 2001), the ILEC may only self-certify the disaggregation of its FUSF support by adopting a plan for disaggregation that has received prior commission approval.

- (2) **Abstain from filing.** If a rural ILEC abstains from filing an election on or before May 15, 2002, the carrier will not be permitted to disaggregate its FUSF support unless it is ordered to do so by the commission pursuant to the terms of paragraph (5) of this subsection.
- (3) **Requirements for rural ILECs' disaggregation plans.** Pursuant to the federal requirements in 47 C.F.R. §54.315(e) a rural ILEC's disaggregation plan, whether submitted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), (C) or (D) of this subsection, must meet the following requirements:
 - (A) the sum of the disaggregated annual support must be equal to the study area's total annual FUSF support amount without disaggregation;
 - (B) the ratio of the per line FUSF support between disaggregation zones for each disaggregated category of FUSF support shall remain fixed over time, except as changes are required pursuant to paragraph (5) of this subsection;
 - (C) the ratio of per line FUSF support shall be publicly available;
 - (D) the per line FUSF support amount for each disaggregated zone or wire center shall be recalculated whenever the rural ILEC's total annual FUSF support amount changes and revised total per line FUSF support and updated access line counts shall then be applied using the changed FUSF support amount and updated access line counts applicable at that point;

- (E) each support category complies with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph;
 - (F) monthly payments of FUSF support shall be based upon the annual amount of FUSF support divided by 12 months if the rural ILEC's study area does not contain a competitive carrier designated as an ETC; and
 - (G) a rural ILEC's disaggregation plan methodology and the underlying access line count upon which it is based will apply to any competitive carrier designated as an ETC in the study area.
- (4) **Additional requirements for self-certification of a disaggregation plan.** Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.315(d)(2), a rural ILEC's self-certified disaggregation plan must also include the following items in addition to those items required by paragraph (3) of this subsection:
- (A) support for, and a description of, the rationale used, including methods and data relied upon, as well as a discussion of how the plan meets the requirements in paragraph (3) of this subsection and this paragraph;
 - (B) a reasonable relationship between the cost of providing service for each disaggregation zone within each disaggregation category of support proposed;
 - (C) a clearly specified per-line level of FUSF support for each category pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.315(d)(2)(iii);
 - (D) if the plan uses a benchmark, a detailed explanation of the benchmark and how it was determined that is generally consistent with how the level of

support for each category of costs was derived so that competitive ETCs may compare the disaggregated costs for each cost zone proposed; and

(E) maps identifying the boundaries of the disaggregated zones within the study area.

(5) **Disaggregation upon commission order.** The commission on its own motion or upon the motion of an interested party may order a rural ILEC to disaggregate FUSF support under the following criteria:

(A) the commission determines that the public interest of the rural study area is best served by disaggregation of the rural ILEC's FUSF support;

(B) the commission establishes the appropriate disaggregated level of FUSF support for the rural ILEC; or

(C) changes in ownership or changes in state or federal regulation warrant the commission's action.

(6) **Effective dates of disaggregation plans.** The effective date of a rural ILEC's disaggregation plan shall be as specified in 47 C.F.R. §54.315.

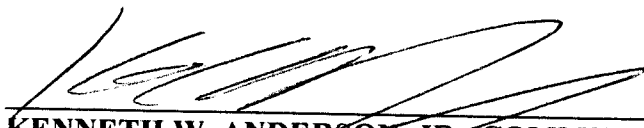
This agency hereby certifies that the adoption has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority. It is therefore ordered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas that §26.418 relating to Designation of Common Carriers as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers to Receive Federal Universal Service Funds, is hereby adopted with no changes to the text as proposed.

SIGNED AT AUSTIN, TEXAS on the 16th day of November 2012.

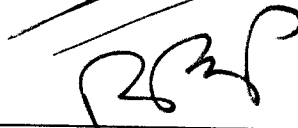
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS



DONNA L. NELSON, CHAIRMAN



KENNETH W. ANDERSON, JR., COMMISSIONER



ROLANDO PABLOS, COMMISSIONER

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION DOCUMENT CONTROL
AT RICHMOND, APRIL 9, 2004

IN RE:

2004 APR -9 A 11:46

APPLICATION OF VIRGINIA CELLULAR LLC

CASE NO. PUC-2001-00263

For designation as an eligible
telecommunications provider under
47 U.S.C. § 214(e) (2)

ORDER INVITING COMMENTS AND/OR REQUESTS FOR HEARING

On December 21, 2001, Virginia Cellular LLC ("Virginia Cellular") filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC"). This was the first application by a Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") carrier for ETC designation.¹ Pursuant to the Order Requesting Comments, Objections, or Requests for Hearing, issued by the Commission on January 24, 2002, the Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association and NTELOS Telephone Inc. ("NTELOS") filed their respective comments and requests for hearing on February 20, 2002. Virginia Cellular filed Reply Comments on March 6, 2002. Our Order of April 9, 2002, found that § 214(e)(6) of the Act is applicable to Virginia Cellular's application because this Commission has not asserted jurisdiction over CMRS carriers and that Virginia Cellular should apply to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for ETC designation.

Virginia Cellular filed its Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia with the FCC on April 26, 2002. On January 22, 2004, the FCC released its order designating Virginia Cellular as an ETC in specific portions of its licensed

¹ Virginia Cellular is a CMRS carrier as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(27) and is authorized as the "A-band" cellular carrier for the Virginia 6 Rural Service Area, serving the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, Nelson, and Highland and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro.

service area in the Commonwealth of Virginia subject to certain conditions ("FCC's January 22, 2004, Order").²

The FCC's January 22, 2004, Order further stated that Virginia Cellular's request to redefine the service areas of Shenandoah Telephone Company ("Shentel") and MGW Telephone Company ("MGW") in Virginia pursuant to § 214(3)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act") was granted subject to the agreement of this Commission. On March 2, 2004, the FCC filed its January 22, 2004, Order as a petition in this case.³

Section 214(e)(5) of the Act states:

SERVICE AREA DEFINED. - The term "service area" means a geographic area established by a State commission (or the Commission under paragraph (6)) for the purpose of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms. In the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, "service area" means such company's "study area" unless and until the Commission and the States, after taking into account recommendations of a Federal-State Joint Board instituted under section 410(c), establish a different definition of service area for such company.

In this instance, the FCC has determined that the service areas of Shentel and MGW, which are both rural telephone companies under the Act, should be redefined as requested by Virginia Cellular.⁴ The FCC further recognizes that the "Virginia Commission's first-hand knowledge of the rural areas in question uniquely qualifies it to determine the redefinition proposal and examine whether it should be approved."⁵

² CC Docket No. 96-45, *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia*.

³ See paragraph 45 of the FCC's January 22, 2004, Order. The FCC, in accordance with § 54.207(d) of its rules, requests that the Virginia Commission treat this Order as a petition to redefine a service area under § 54.207(d)(1) of the FCC's rules. A copy of the petition can be obtained from the Commission's website at: <http://www.state.va.us/scc/caseinfo.htm>.

⁴ The FCC denied Virginia Cellular's request to redefine the study area of NTELOS. See paragraph 50 of the FCC's January 22, 2004, Order.

⁵ The FCC's January 24, 2004, Order at paragraph 2. (citations omitted)

The Commission finds that interested parties should be afforded the opportunity to comment and/or request a hearing regarding the FCC's petition to redefine the service areas of Shentel and MGW. We note that the FCC believes that its proposed redefinition of these service areas should not harm either Shentel or MGW.⁶ However, we request any interested party to specifically address in its comments whether our agreeing to the FCC's proposal to redefine the service areas of Shentel and MGW would harm these companies.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of all the pleadings of record and the applicable law, the Commission is of the opinion that interested parties should be allowed to comment or request a hearing regarding the FCC's proposed redefinition of Shentel's and MGW's service areas.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) Any interested party desiring to comment regarding the redefinition of Shentel's and MGW's service areas may do so by directing such comments in writing on or before May 7, 2004, to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested parties desiring to submit comments electronically may do so by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: <http://www.state.va.us/scc/caseinfo.htm>.

(2) On or before May 7, 2004, any interested party wishing to request a hearing regarding the redefinition of Shentel's and MGW's service areas shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of its request for hearing in writing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Written requests for hearing shall refer to Case No. PUC-2001-00263 and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the filing party; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in the matter.

⁶ See paragraphs 43 and 44 of the FCC's January 22, 2004, Order.

(3) On or before June 1, 2004, interested parties may file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any responses to the comments and requests for hearing filed with the Commission. A copy of the response shall be delivered to any person who filed comments or requests for hearing.

(4) This matter is continued generally.

AN ATTESTED COPY hereof shall be sent by the Clerk of the Commission to: each local exchange telephone company licensed to do business in Virginia, as shown on Attachment A hereto; David A. LaFuria, Esquire, Lukas, Nace, Gutierrez & Sachs, Chartered, 1111 19th Street, N.W., Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20036; Thomas Buckley, Attorney-Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554; Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association, c/o Richard D. Gary, Esquire, Hunton & Williams LLP, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-4074; L. Ronald Smith, President and General Manager, Shenandoah Telephone Company, P.O. Box 105, Williamsville, Virginia 24487; Lori Warren, Director of Regulatory Affairs, MGW Telephone Company, P.O. Box 459, Edinburg, Virginia 22824-0459; C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of Attorney General, 900 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and the Commission's Office of General Counsel and Divisions of Communications, Public Utility Accounting, and Economics and Finance.

EXHIBIT B

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December 20, 2012

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC Revised Compliance Plan; WC
Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 22, 2012, Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC ("Pinntel") submitted its Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions imposed by the Commission in its *Lifeline Reform Order*.¹ On November 2 and December 3, Pinntel revised its Compliance Plan to provide additional details and clarifications.

Pinntel has further revised its Compliance Plan (p. 14) to clarify Pinntel's process for de-enrollment of customers that fail to respond to the annual eligibility verification. Nothing else in the Compliance Plan has been changed.

Pinntel hereby re-submits its complete Compliance Plan with the above revision. Based on the minor nature of this change, Pinntel reiterates its request for expeditious approval of its Compliance Plan.

¹

See Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (Feb. 6, 2012).

KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
December 20, 2012
Page Two

This letter and revised Compliance Plan are being filed electronically for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceedings. Please feel free to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Heitmann
Joshua T. Guyan

*Counsel to Pinnacle Telecommunications
Group, LLC*

cc: Kim Scardino
Divya Shenoy
Michelle Schaefer

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support	WC Docket No. 09-197
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization	WC Docket No. 11-42
Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC	

PINNACLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC COMPLIANCE PLAN

Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC (“Pinntel” or the “Company”),¹ through its undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully submits and requests expeditious treatment of its Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions imposed by the Commission in its *Lifeline Reform Order*.²

The Company commends the Commission’s commitment to a nationwide communications system that promotes the safety and welfare of all Americans, including Lifeline customers. The Company will comply with 911 requirements as described below and it

¹ The Company hereby also reports its corporate and trade names, identifiers, and its holding company, operating companies and affiliates in an organizational chart in Exhibit A. In addition, the Company uses Yourlife as a brand for its Lifeline products.

² See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report And Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (Feb. 6, 2012) (“*Lifeline Reform Order*”). The Company herein submits the information required by the Compliance Plan Public Notice. See *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance for the Submission of Compliance Plans Pursuant to the Lifeline Reform Order*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-314 (rel. Feb. 29, 2012).

is submitting this Compliance Plan in order to qualify for blanket forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Communications Act and participate as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) in the Lifeline program.³

The Company will comply fully with all conditions set forth in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, as well as with the Commission’s Lifeline rules and policies more generally.⁴ This Compliance Plan describes the specific measures that the Company intends to implement to achieve these objectives. Specifically, this Compliance Plan: (1) describes the specific measures that the Company will take to implement the obligations contained in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, including the procedures the Company will follow in enrolling a subscriber in Lifeline and submitting for reimbursement for that subscriber from the Low-Income Fund, materials related to initial and ongoing certifications and sample marketing materials; and (2) provides a detailed description of how the Company will offer Lifeline services, the geographic areas in which it will offer services, and a detailed description of the Company’s Lifeline service plan offerings.

³ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 368. Although Pinntel qualifies for and seeks to avail itself of the Commission’s grant of forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for purposes of the federal Lifeline program, the Company reserves the right to demonstrate to a state public utilities commission that it provides service using its own facilities in a state for purposes of state universal service funding under state program rules and requirements. The Company will follow the requirements of the Commission’s Lifeline rules and this Compliance Plan in all states in which it provides Lifeline service and receives reimbursements from the federal Low-Income Fund, including in any state where the public utilities commission determines that Pinntel provides service using its own facilities for purposes of a state universal service program.

⁴ In addition, this Compliance Plan is consistent with the compliance plan filed by Global Connection Inc. of America. See Global Connection of America Inc. Compliance Plan, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42 (Apr. 30, 2012). The Global Connection compliance plan was approved on May 25, 2012. See Public Notice, DA 12-828.

ACCESS TO 911 AND E911 SERVICES⁵

Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, forbearance is conditioned upon the Company: (1) providing its Lifeline subscribers with 911 and E911 access, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes; and (2) providing its Lifeline subscribers with E911-compliant handsets and replacing, at no additional charge to the subscriber, noncompliant handsets of Lifeline-eligible subscribers who obtain Lifeline-supported services.⁶ The Company will comply with these conditions on the first day that it begins providing service.

The Company will provide its Lifeline customers with access to 911 and E911 services immediately upon activation of service. The Commission and consumers are hereby assured that all Company customers will have available access to emergency calling services at the time that Lifeline service is initiated, and that such 911 and E911 access will be available from Company handsets, even if the account associated with the handset has no minutes remaining.

The Company will use AT&T Wireless its underlying wireless network providers/carrier through a wholesale agreement with Red Pocket, Inc. (“Red Pocket”). Red Pocket is a minority owner of Pinntel and will utilize its wholesale agreement with AT&T to provide minutes to Pinntel to serve its non-Lifeline and Lifeline customers. AT&T Wireless will route 911 calls from the Company’s customers in the same manner as 911 calls from its own retail customers. To the extent that these underlying wireless network providers/carrier is certified in a given PSAP territory, this 911 capability will function the same for the Company. The Company will also enable 911 emergency calling services for all properly activated handsets regardless of whether the account associated with the handset is active or suspended. Finally, the Company

⁵ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

⁶ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 373.

will transmit all 911 calls initiated from any of its handsets even if the account associated with the handset has no remaining minutes.

E911-Compliant Handsets. Pinntel will ensure that all handsets used in connection with the Lifeline service offering are E911-compliant. All of the Company's phones will be E911-capable handsets. The Company will use phones from various suppliers that have been through a stringent certification process to ensure that the handset models used meet all 911 and E911 requirements. As a result, any new customer that qualifies for and enrolls in the Lifeline program is assured of receiving a 911/E911-compliant handset as well, free of charge.

COMPLIANCE PLAN

I. PROCEDURES TO ENROLL A SUBSCRIBER IN LIFELINE⁷

A. Policy

Pinntel will comply with the uniform eligibility criteria established in new section 54.409 of the Commission's rules, as well as any additional certification and verification requirements for Lifeline eligibility in states where the Company is designated as an ETC.

Therefore, all subscribers will be required to demonstrate eligibility based at least on: (1) household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size; or (2) the household's participation in one of the federal assistance programs listed in new sections 54.409(a)(2) or 54.409(a)(3) of the Commission's rules. In addition, through the certification requirements described below, the Company will confirm that the subscriber is not already receiving a Lifeline service and no one else in the subscriber's household is subscribed to a Lifeline service.

⁷ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

B. Eligibility Determination

Pinntel will enroll customers through several different marketing channels: 1) in-person, through company owned or affiliated retail outlets; 2) in-person, through field representatives; 3) over the telephone; and 4) through online sales over the Internet. The majority of enrollments will likely be completed in-person at the Company's affiliated retail locations or at events. Pinntel will have access to over thousands of retail locations affiliated with Red Pocket in almost every state. Regardless of how a customer applies, each customer will provide the same information via Pinntel's standard customer application/certification form discussed further below.

Pinntel's electronic process will use laptops and tablets to complete enrollment in real-time. The Company will be using the CGM, LLC enrollment application. The electronic order process will provide the Company the opportunity to perform several database checks in real-time during the enrollment process as discussed below. Pinntel employees or representatives ("Company personnel") must log in to the software so that the customer enrollment is automatically tagged to a particular representative. The Company personnel must sign his or her agreement not to take part in any fraud with respect to Lifeline enrollment. The representative then advances through the electronic windows with the prospective customer to provide disclosures, collect information and elicit certifications as detailed below, which must be read and checked by the applicant. The customer signs the electronic application and the information collected is sent for several database checks, including an address verification, a geographic footprint match to the ETC's authorization to provide Lifeline service in the area, an internal duplicate check and a state database eligibility check (if available). In addition, Pinntel will check each applicant against a pooled duplicates database established by CGM, LLC.

The electronic enrollment process includes the ability to scan customers' government-issued identification, proof of residence (if necessary because the address cannot be verified) and proof of eligibility. As discussed further below, the proof will only be retained for a short period of time for verification and then deleted. All transfers of information and scans collected electronically are transmitted in encrypted form. When the checks described herein are completed in real-time, approved customers are enrolled and receive a handset to be activated as discussed below.

For enrollments conducted over the phone and online, customers will be required to submit copies of their government-issued identification and proof of eligibility to the Company by regular mail, fax or electronic mail (scanned version) for approval before the applicant will be enrolled.

As discussed in further detail in Section I.F. below, all Company personnel that conduct such in-person enrollments are trained regarding the eligibility and certification requirements in the *Lifeline Reform Order* and this Compliance Plan, including the one-per-household requirement, and told to inform potential customers of those requirements. New Company personnel undergo an initial mandatory training session where they are given training materials to review and understand.

If Pinntel cannot determine a prospective subscriber's eligibility for Lifeline by accessing income databases or program eligibility databases, Company personnel will review documentation establishing eligibility pursuant to the Lifeline rules.⁸ All personnel who interact with current or prospective customers will be trained to assist Lifeline applicants in determining whether they are eligible to participate based on the federal and state-specific income-based

⁸ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 100; section 54.410(b)(1)(i)(B), 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B).

and/or program-based criteria. These personnel will be trained to answer questions about Lifeline eligibility, and will review required documentation to determine whether it satisfies the *Lifeline Reform Order* and state-specific eligibility requirements using state-specific checklists.

Proof of Eligibility. Company personnel will be trained on acceptable documentation required to establish income-based and program-based eligibility.⁹ Acceptable documentation of program eligibility includes: (1) the current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (2) a notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (3) program participation documents (*e.g.*, the consumer's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit transfer card or Medicaid participation card (or copy thereof)); or (4) another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.¹⁰

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; a Social Security statement of benefits; a Veterans Administration statement of benefits; a retirement/pension statement of benefits; an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance; or a divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three consecutive months' time.¹¹

Company personnel will examine this documentation for each Lifeline applicant, and will record the type of documentation used to satisfy the income- or program-based criteria by

⁹ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 101. See also USAC Guidance available at <http://www.usac.org/li/telecom-carriers/step06/default.aspx>.

¹⁰ *Id.* and section 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B).

¹¹ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; section 54.410.(b)(1)(i)(B).

checking the appropriate box on the application form.¹² In addition, Company personnel will fill in, where available, the last four digits of an account or other identifying number on the proof document, the date of the proof document and the expiration of the proof document. The Company will not retain a copy of this documentation, except where state rules require such retention.¹³ For customers enrolled via the Internet, Toll-Free Facsimile, USPS Mail, or Voice/IVR, the customer will be required to fax or e-mail proof of eligibility documentation to the Company. Proof will be reviewed by Company personnel prior to service activation and then deleted. Where the Company personnel conclude that proffered documentation is insufficient to establish such eligibility, the Company will deny the associated application and inform the applicant of the reason for such rejection. In the event that Company personnel cannot ascertain whether documentation of a specific type is sufficient to establish an applicant's eligibility, the matter will be escalated to supervisory personnel at the Company's corporate headquarters.¹⁴ In addition, a Pinntel employee will be responsible for overseeing and finalizing every Lifeline enrollment prior to including that customer on an FCC Form 497 for reimbursement.

Further, Pinntel will not enroll customers at retail locations where Pinntel does not have an agency agreement with the retailer. Pinntel will require an agent retailer to have any employees involved in the enrollment process go through the standard Pinntel training process, same as it would for any other agent. By establishing agency relationships with all of its

¹² See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; sections 54.410(b)(1)(iii), 54.410(c)(1)(iii).

¹³ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; sections 54.410(b)(1)(ii), 54.410(c)(1)(ii).

¹⁴ See *id.*

Company personnel, including future retail outlets, Pinntel meets the “deal directly” requirement adopted in the TracFone Forbearance Order.¹⁵

The Commission determined in the *Lifeline Reform Order* that ETCs may permit agents or representatives to review documentation of consumer program eligibility for Lifeline because “the Commission has consistently found that ‘[l]icensees and other Commission regulatees are responsible for the acts and omissions of their employees and independent contractors.’”¹⁶ Because Pinntel is responsible for the actions of all of its employees and agents, including those enrolling customers in any Pinntel owned or affiliated retail locations, and a Pinntel employee will be responsible for overseeing and finalizing every Lifeline enrollment prior to including that customer on an FCC Form 497 for reimbursement, the Company will always “deal directly” with its customers to certify and verify the customer’s Lifeline eligibility.

De-Enrollment for Ineligibility. If Pinntel has a reasonable basis to believe that one of its Lifeline subscribers no longer meets the eligibility criteria, the Company will notify the subscriber of impending termination in writing and in compliance with any state dispute resolution procedures applicable to Lifeline termination, and give the subscriber 30 days to demonstrate continued eligibility.¹⁷ A demonstration of eligibility must comply with the annual verification procedures below and found in new rule section 54.410(f), including the submission of a certification form. If a customer contacts the Company and states that he or she is not eligible for Lifeline or wishes to de-enroll for any reason, the Company will de-enroll the

¹⁵ See Petition of TracFone Wireless, Inc. for Forbearance from 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(i), CC Docket no. 96-45, Order, FCC 05-165, ¶19 (2005).

¹⁶ *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 110.

¹⁷ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 143; section 54.405(e)(1).

customer within five business days. Customers can make this request by calling the Company's customer service number and will not be required to submit any documents.

C. Subscriber Certifications for Enrollment

The Company will implement certification policies and procedures that enable consumers to demonstrate their eligibility for Lifeline assistance to Company personnel as detailed in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, together with any additional state certification requirements.¹⁸ The Company shares the Commission's concern about abuse of the Lifeline program and is thus committed to the safeguards stated herein, with the belief that these procedures will prevent the Company's customers from engaging in such abuse of the program, inadvertently or intentionally. Every applicant will be required to complete an application/certification form containing disclosures, and collecting certain information and certifications as discussed below.¹⁹ Applicants that seek to enroll based on income eligibility will be referred to a worksheet showing the Federal Poverty Guidelines by household size.²⁰ Applicants that do not complete the form in person will be required to return the signed application/certification to the Company by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic transmission. In addition, Company personnel will verbally explain the certifications to consumers when they are enrolling in person or over the phone.²¹

Disclosures. The Company's application and certification forms will include the following disclosures: (1) Lifeline is a federal benefit and willfully making false statements to

¹⁸ *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 61; section 54.410(a).

¹⁹ See Model Application/Certification Form, included as Exhibit B. See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

²⁰ See Income Eligibility Worksheet, included as Exhibit C.

²¹ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 123.

obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program; (2) only one Lifeline service is available per household; (3) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses; (4) a household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers; (5) violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Commission's rules and will result in the applicant's de-enrollment from the program; and (6) Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and the applicant may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person.²²

Applications and certification forms will also state that: (1) the service is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, and (3) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program.²³

In addition, the Company will notify the applicant that the prepaid service must be personally activated by the subscriber and the service will be deactivated and the subscriber de-enrolled if the subscriber does not use the service for 60 days.²⁴

Information Collection. The Company will also collect the following information from the applicant in the application/certification form: (1) the applicant's full name; (2) the applicant's full residential address (P.O. Box is not sufficient²⁵); (3) whether the applicant's residential address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's billing address, if different from the applicant's residential address; (5) the applicant's date of birth; (6) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number (or the applicant's Tribal identification number, if the

²² See *id.*, ¶ 121; section 54.410(d)(1).

²³ See section 54.405(c).

²⁴ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257.

²⁵ See *id.*, ¶ 87.

subscriber is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a Social Security number); (7) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the program-based criteria, the name of the qualifying assistance program from which the applicant, his or her dependents, or his or her household receives benefits; and (8) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the income-based criterion, the number of individuals in his or her household.²⁶

Applicant Certification. Consistent with new rule section 54.410(d)(3), the Company will require the applicant to certify, under penalty of perjury, in writing or by electronic signature or interactive voice response recording,²⁷ the following: (1) the applicant meets the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline; (2) the applicant will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason he or she no longer satisfies the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if the applicant no longer meets the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, the applicant is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of the applicant's household is receiving a Lifeline benefit; (3) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, he or she lives on Tribal lands; (4) if the applicant moves to a new address, he or she will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days; (5) if the applicant provided a temporary residential address to the Company, the applicant will be required to verify his or her temporary residential address every 90 days; (6) the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the applicant's household is not already receiving a Lifeline service; (7) the information contained in the applicant's certification form is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge; (8) the applicant acknowledges that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and (9) the

²⁶ See section 54.410(d)(2).

²⁷ See *Lifeline Reform Order*. ¶¶ 168-69; section 54.419.

applicant acknowledges that the applicant may be required to re-certify his or her continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and the applicant's failure to re-certify as to the applicant's continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of the applicant's Lifeline benefits pursuant to the de-enrollment policy included below and in the Commission's rules.

In addition, the applicant will be required to authorize the Company to access any records required to verify the applicant's statements on the application/certification form and to confirm the applicant's eligibility for the Company Lifeline credit. The applicant must also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Company Lifeline credit program, including to USAC to be used in a Lifeline program database.²⁸

D. Annual Verification Procedures

Pinntel will annually re-certify all subscribers by querying the appropriate eligibility databases or obtaining a signed certification from each subscriber consistent with the certification requirements above and new section 54.410(d) of the Commission's rules. This certification will include a confirmation that the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the subscriber's knowledge, the subscriber's household is receiving no more than one Lifeline service.²⁹ Further, the verification materials will inform the subscriber that he or she is being contacted to re-certify his or her continuing eligibility for Lifeline and if the subscriber fails to respond, he or she will be de-enrolled in the program.³⁰

²⁸ See Section 54.404(b)(9). The application/certification form will also describe the information that will be transmitted, that the information is being transmitted to USAC to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline program and that failure to provide consent will result in the applicant being denied the Lifeline service. *See id.*

²⁹ *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 120.

³⁰ *See id.*, ¶ 145.

Verification De-Enrollment. Pinntel will de-enroll subscribers that do not respond to the annual verification or fail to provide the required certification.³¹ The Company will send a single written notice explaining that failure to respond to the re-certification request within 30 days will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the Lifeline program. If the subscriber does not respond within the 30 days, the Company will de-enroll the subscriber within five business days.

E. Activation and Non-Usage

Pinntel will not consider a prepaid subscriber activated, and will not seek reimbursement for Lifeline for that subscriber, until the subscriber activates the Company's prepaid service by completing an outbound call. An outbound call must be made in order for the service to be activated and for Pinntel to seek Lifeline reimbursement for that customer. For phones sold in-person, the customer must complete an outbound call in front of the representative upon taking possession of the phone in order to complete the enrollment process. In the event phones are mailed to the customer's address, the customer must dial an access number, which will connect them to a customer service representative. The customer then has to provide the customer service representative with identification information and confirm Lifeline service was ordered.

Further, after service activation, the Company will provide a de-enrollment notice to subscribers that have not used their service for 60 days. After 60 days of non-use, the Company will provide notice to the subscriber that failure to use the Lifeline service within a 30-day notice period will result in de-enrollment.³² Subscribers can "use" the service by: (1) completing an outbound call; (2) purchasing minutes from the Company to add to the subscriber's plan; (3) answering an incoming call from a party other than the Company; or (4) responding to a direct

³¹ *See id.*, ¶ 142; section 54.54.405(e)(4).

³² *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

contact from the Company and confirming that the subscriber wants to continue receiving the service.³³ If the subscriber does not respond to the notice, the subscriber will be de-enrolled and the Company will not request further Lifeline reimbursement for the subscriber. The Company will report annually to the Commission the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month.³⁴

In addition to the above, Pinntel's usage team identifies accounts that have not been used for 30 days and sends a text message to such customers asking the customers to respond to the text message or call Pinntel's customer service number within 30 days to keep their account active. After 45 days of non-usage, Pinntel's internal outreach team attempts to contact the customer to inquire about the customer's intentions to retain the service.

F. Additional Measures to Prevent Waste, Fraud and Abuse

To supplement its verification and certification procedures, and to better ensure that customers understand the Lifeline service restrictions with respect to duplicates, Pinntel will implement measures and procedures to prevent duplicate Lifeline benefits being awarded to the same household. These measures entail additional emphasis in written disclosures as well as live due diligence.

In addition to checking the database when it becomes available, Company personnel will emphasize the “one Lifeline phone per household” restriction in their direct sales contacts with potential customers. Training materials will include training videos and a discussion of the limitation to one Lifeline phone per household, including the need to ensure that the customer is informed of this restriction. All Company personnel interacting with existing and potential

³³ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 261; section 54.407(c)(2).

³⁴ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

Lifeline customers will undergo training regarding the eligibility and certification requirements in the *Lifeline Reform Order* and this Compliance Plan. Agents must sign and return to Pinntel the Acknowledgement of Receipt of the training manual that they receive as part of this training.

Further, all agents must provide proof of employment (e.g., driver's license or copy of W-9 form) for all employees that will be enrolling Lifeline customers for Pinntel. All agents must read, understand and follow Pinntel's Code of Conduct. Each agent must have a signed copy of the Code of Conduct on file with Pinntel in order to enroll customers for the Company. Finally, all dealers and agents are given a toll-free hotline to a live dealer representative and an email address that can be used for any issues or questions regarding Lifeline eligibility or prepaid services.

National Lifeline Accountability Database. When the National Lifeline Accountability Database ("National Database") becomes available, Pinntel will comply with the requirements of new rule section 54.404. The Company will query the National Database to determine whether a prospective subscriber is currently receiving a Lifeline service from another ETC and whether anyone else living at the prospective subscriber's residential address is currently receiving Lifeline service.³⁵

One-Per-Household. The Company will implement the requirements of the *Lifeline Reform Order* to ensure that it provides only one Lifeline benefit per household³⁶ through the use

³⁵ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 203. Company will also transmit to the National Database the information required for each new and existing Lifeline subscriber. See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 189-195; section 54.404(b)(6). Further, Company will update each subscriber's information in the National Database within ten business days of any change, except for de-enrollment, which will be transmitted within one business day. See section 54.404(b)(8),(10).

³⁶ A "household" is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing

of its application and certification forms discussed above, database checks and its marketing materials discussed below. Upon receiving an application for the Company's Lifeline service, the Company will search its own internal records to ensure that it does not already provide Lifeline-supported service to someone at the same residential address.³⁷ If so, and the applicant lives at an address with multiple households, the Company will require the applicant to complete and submit a written USAC document containing the following: (1) an explanation of the Commission's one-per-household rule; (2) a check box that an applicant can mark to indicate that he or she lives at an address occupied by multiple households; (3) a space for the applicant to certify that he or she shares an address with other adults who do not contribute income to the applicant's household and share in the household's expenses or benefit from the applicant's income, pursuant to the Commission's definition; and (4) the penalty for a consumer's failure to make the required one-per-household certification (*i.e.*, de-enrollment).³⁸ Further, if a subscriber provides a temporary address on his or her application/certification form collected as described above, the Company will verify with the subscriber every 90 days that the subscriber continues to rely on that address.³⁹

In addition, Company personnel will inform each Lifeline applicant that he or she may be receiving Lifeline support under another name, and facilitate the applicant's understanding of

in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 74; section 54.400(h).

³⁷ *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 78.

³⁸ *Id.* The USAC worksheet is available at <http://www.usac.org/li/tools/news/default.aspx#582>.

³⁹ *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 89.

what constitutes “Lifeline-supported services,” and ability to determine whether he or she is already benefiting from Lifeline support, by informing the consumer that all Lifeline services may not be currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Pinntel will also ask each customer whether they are receiving Lifeline service from one of the other major Lifeline providers in the state (*e.g.*, SafeLink, Assurance). Finally, at the time of enrollment, Pinntel will check each applicant against a pooled duplicates database established by CGM, LLC.

Marketing Materials. Within the deadline provided in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Company will include the following information regarding its Lifeline service on all marketing materials describing the service: (1) it is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, (3) the service is non-transferable, (4) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, (5) the program is limited to one discount per household; (6) that documentation is necessary for enrollment; and (7) Pinntel’s name (the ETC).⁴⁰ These statements will be included in all print, audio video and web materials (including social networking media) used to describe or enroll customers in the Company’s Lifeline service offering, as well as the Company’s application forms and certification forms.⁴¹ This specifically includes the Company’s website (www.pinntel.com) and outdoor signage.⁴² A sample of the Company’s marketing materials is included as Exhibit D. In addition, the Company’s application/certification form will state that consumers who willfully make a false statement in order to obtain the Lifeline benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

⁴⁰ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 275; section 54.405(c).

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² *Id.*

G. Company Reimbursements From the Fund

To ensure that Pinntel does not seek reimbursement from the Fund without a subscriber's consent, the Company will certify, as part of each reimbursement request, that it is in compliance with all of the Commission's Lifeline rules and, to the extent required, has obtained valid certification and verification forms from each of the subscribers for whom it is seeking reimbursement.⁴³ Further, the Company will submit its FCC Forms 497 to the eighth day of each month in order to be reimbursed the same month.⁴⁴

In addition, the Company will keep accurate records as directed by USAC⁴⁵ and as required by new section 54.417 of the Commission's rules. For example, Pinntel will keep the following records for each subscriber's individual Lifeline account, among other records, if applicable and as permitted: 1) date that Pinntel queried the duplicates database; 2) date and information that Pinntel transmitted to the duplicates database; 3) date of transmission of updated customer information to database; 4) date and database upon which the ETC determined income-based eligibility where available; 5) date and documentation/data source used to determine income-based eligibility if no database was available to determine subscriber eligibility;⁴⁶ 6) date, database, and program on which ETC determined subscriber eligibility; 7) date and records detailing the documentation a subscriber provided to demonstrate Lifeline eligibility; 8) state Lifeline administrator documentation of customer eligibility, and subscriber's certification of eligibility; 9) date of customer service activation; 10) application/certification and annual re-

⁴³ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 128; section 54.407(d).

⁴⁴ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 302-306.

⁴⁵ See section 54.407(e).

⁴⁶ Such documentation includes the documentation listed in Section I.B. *supra*.

certification forms for each subscriber associated with a date and time of signature; and 11) date of transmission of customer de-enrollment to database.

H. Annual Company Certifications

Pinntel will submit an annual certification to USAC, signed by a Company officer under penalty of perjury, that the Company: (1) has policies and procedures in place to review consumers' documentation of income- and program-based eligibility and ensure that its Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive Lifeline services;⁴⁷ (2) is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures;⁴⁸ and (3) has obtained a valid certification form for each subscriber for whom the carrier seeks Lifeline reimbursement.⁴⁹

In addition, the Company will provide the results of its annual re-certifications/ verifications on an annual basis to the Commission, USAC, the applicable state commission and the relevant Tribal governments (for subscribers residing on Tribal lands).⁵⁰ Further, as discussed above, Pinntel will report annually to the Commission the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month.⁵¹

The Company will also annually report to the Commission, USAC, and relevant state commissions and the relevant authority in a U.S. territory or Tribal government as appropriate,⁵² the company name, names of the company's holding company, operating companies and affiliates, and any branding (such as a "dba" or brand designation) as well as relevant universal

⁴⁷ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 126; section 54.416(a)(1).

⁴⁸ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 127; section 54.416(a)(2).

⁴⁹ See section 54.416(a)(3).

⁵⁰ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 132,148; section 54.416(b).

⁵¹ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

⁵² See section 54.422(c).

service identifiers for each entity by Study Area Code.⁵³ The Company will report annually information regarding the terms and conditions of its Lifeline plans for voice telephony service offered specifically for low-income consumers during the previous year, including the number of minutes provided and whether there are additional charges to the consumer for service, including minutes of use and/or toll calls.⁵⁴ Finally, the Company will annually provide detailed information regarding service outages in the previous year, the number of complaints received and certification of compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules, as well as a certification that the Company is able to function in emergency situations.⁵⁵

I. Cooperation with State and Federal Regulators

Pinntel will cooperate with federal and state regulators to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.

More specifically, the Company will:

- Make available, upon request, state-specific subscriber data, including the names and addresses of Lifeline subscribers, to USAC and to each state public utilities commission where the Company operates for the purpose of determining whether an existing Lifeline subscriber receives Lifeline service from another carrier;⁵⁶
- Assist the Commission, USAC, state commissions, and other ETCs in resolving instances of duplicative enrollment by Lifeline subscribers, including by providing to USAC and/or any state commission, upon request, the necessary information to detect and resolve duplicative Lifeline claims;
- Promptly investigate any notification that it receives from the Commission, USAC, or a state commission to the effect that one of its customers already receives Lifeline services from another carrier; and

⁵³ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 296, 390; section 54.422(a).

⁵⁴ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 390; section 54.422(b)(5).

⁵⁵ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 389; section 54.422(b)(1)-(4).

⁵⁶ The Company anticipates that the need to provide such information will sunset following the implementation of the national duplicates database.

- Immediately de-enroll any subscriber whom the Company has a reasonable basis to believe⁵⁷ is receiving Lifeline-supported service from another ETC or is no longer eligible – whether or not such information is provided by the Commission, USAC, or a state commission.

II. Description of Lifeline Service Offerings⁵⁸

The Company will offer its Lifeline service in the states where it is designated as an ETC⁵⁹ and throughout the coverage area of the AT&T Wireless footprint. Pinntel purchases wireless minutes from Red Pocket, which purchases wholesale minutes from AT&T Wireless. Pinntel's Lifeline offering will provide all non-Tribal customers with 250 anytime prepaid minutes per month at no charge, with text messaging at a rate of 1 text per voice minute. In addition, Pinntel plans to offer Lifeline-eligible residents of federally-recognized Tribal lands unlimited voice minutes for \$5.75 with no text messaging or 1,000 voice minutes for \$1.00 with no text messaging.

Lifeline customers can purchase additional bundles of minutes, referred to in Pinntel's general terms and conditions as Replenishment plans. These Replenishment plans, or "top-up" minutes, will be available for purchase at Pinntel's website and at its retail locations, through Red Pocket. Where text messaging is not included in a plan as a separate component, it is available with all Pinntel voice plans at the rate of one (1) text, either sent or received, to one (1) minute of airtime usage. Rates are attached as Exhibit E. In addition, Pinntel's terms and conditions are included on its website at www.pinntel.com.

In addition to free voice services, Pinntel's Lifeline plan will include a free refurbished

⁵⁷ See section 54.405(e)(1).

⁵⁸ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

⁵⁹ The Company is not yet designated as an ETC in any states, but it filed a petition for ETC designation in Hawaii on March 23, 2012 and will be filing a petition for ETC designation in the federal jurisdiction states with the Commission shortly. The Company intends to prepare additional petitions and file where permitted.

handset and custom calling features at no charge, including Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-Way Calling, and Voicemail. All plans include domestic long-distance at no extra per minute charge. Calls to 911 emergency services are always free, regardless of service activation or availability of minutes. Lifeline customers can purchase an upgraded handset. No Lifeline reimbursements will be used to subsidize the cost of the free or upgraded handset. Any phone subsidy comes from Pinntel's ability to purchase low-cost handsets directly from manufacturers or its general revenues, which include substantial non-Lifeline and top-up revenues.

III. Demonstration of Financial and Technical Capabilities and Certifications Required for ETC Designation⁶⁰

Financial and Technical Capabilities. Revised Commission rule 54.202(a)(4), 47 C.F.R. 54.202(a)(4), requires carriers petitioning for ETC designation to demonstrate financial and technical capability to comply with the Commission's Lifeline service requirements.⁶¹ The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires that carriers' compliance plan include this demonstration. Among the factors the Commission will consider are: a carrier's prior offering of service to non-Lifeline subscribers, the length of time the carrier has been in business, whether the carrier relies exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement to operate, whether the carrier receives revenues from other sources and whether the carrier has been the subject of an enforcement action or ETC revocation proceeding in any state.

Pinntel receives revenue from a number of sources which are completely independent from the revenue it will receive in the form of Lifeline reimbursements. Pinntel's revenue stream includes income from the sale of non-Lifeline prepaid telecommunications services to customers

⁶⁰ See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

⁶¹ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 387-388 (revising Commission rule 54.202(a)(4)).

in almost all states. In addition, Pinntel's minority owner Red Pocket has provided non-Lifeline prepaid domestic and international telecommunications and mobile data services since 2006 (www.goredpocket.com) and has a substantial non-Lifeline customer base. Consequently, Pinntel will not be relying exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement for its operating revenues. Pinntel receives revenues from these wholesale and non-Lifeline retail offerings, and also has access to other financial resources including from its parent company. The Company has not been subject to enforcement sanctions or ETC revocation proceedings in any state.

Service Requirements Applicable to Company's Support. The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires carriers to include "certifications required under newly amended section 54.202 of the Commission's rules."⁶² Pinntel certifies that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support the Company receives.⁶³ The Company will provide all of the telecommunications service supported by the Lifeline program and will make the services available to all qualified consumers throughout the states in which it is designated as an ETC. The Company's services will include voice telephony services that provide voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent. Further, the Company's service offerings will provide its customers with a set number of minutes of use for local service at no charge to the customer. The Company's proposed Lifeline offerings include packages in Section II *supra* that can be used for local and domestic toll service.

The Company also will provide access to emergency services provided by local government or public safety officials, including 911 and E911 where available and will comply with any Commission requirements regarding E911-compatible handsets. As discussed above,

⁶² Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

⁶³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).

the Company will comply with the Commission's forbearance grant conditions relating to the provision of 911 and E911 services and handsets.

Finally, the Company will not provide toll limitation service ("TLS"). Pinntel, like most wireless carriers, does not differentiate domestic long distance toll usage from local usage and all usage is paid for in advance. Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, subscribers to such services are not considered to have voluntarily elected to receive TLS.⁶⁴

IV. Conclusion

Pinntel submits that its Compliance Plan fully satisfies the conditions set forth in the Commission's *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Compliance Plan Public Notice and the Lifeline rules. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve its Compliance Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Heitmann
Joshua T. Guyan
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
3050 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 342-8544

*Counsel to Pinnacle Telecommunications Group,
LLC*

December 20, 2012

⁶⁴ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 230.

EXHIBIT A

PINNACLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC.

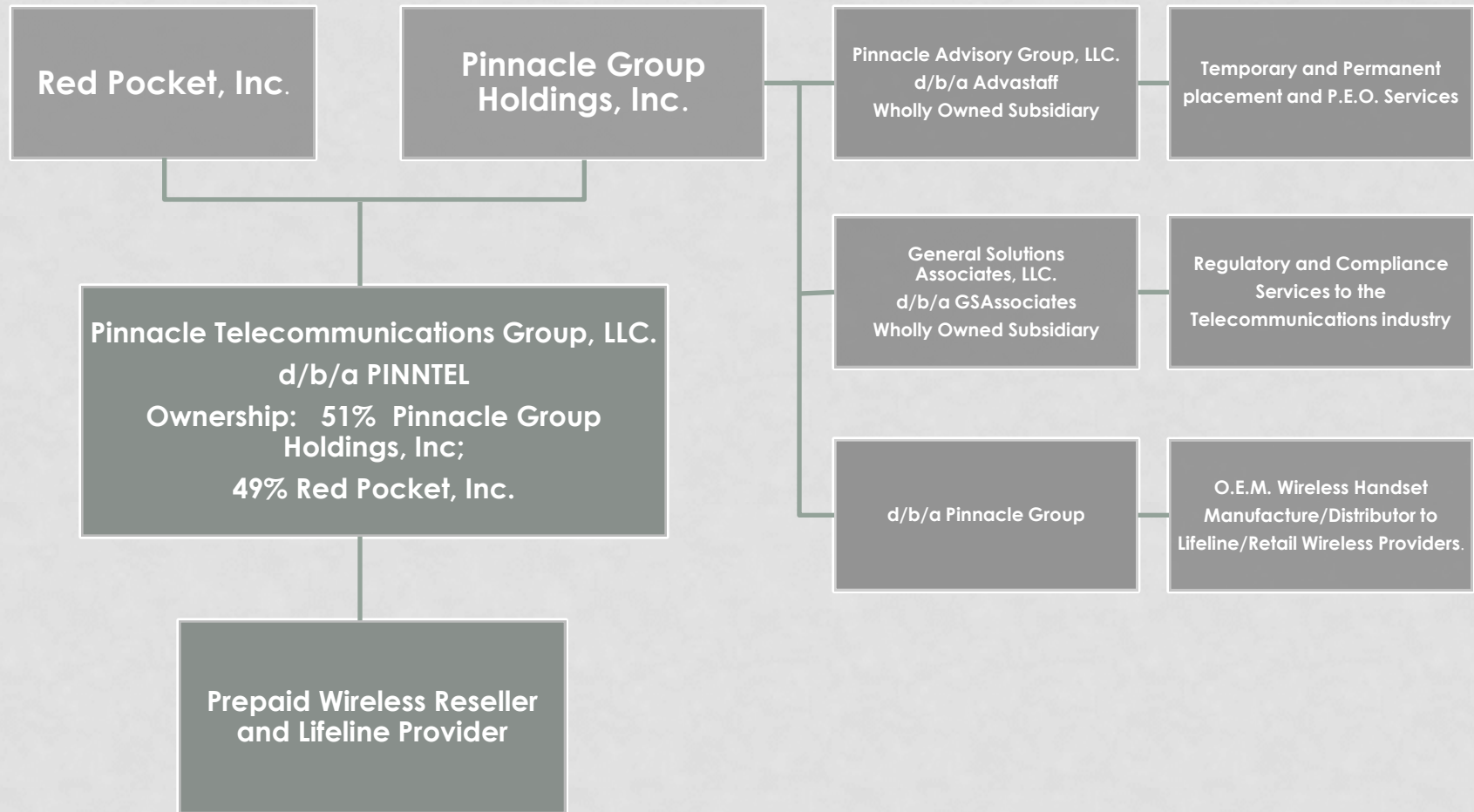


EXHIBIT B



Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC (State) Lifeline Wireless Service Application



When Complete Mail or Fax Form to:
5400 Laurel Springs Parkway, Suite 404
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
Fax: 866-611-5443
Customer Service: 855-968-5433

A complete and signed Lifeline Service Application and Certification ("Certification") is required to enroll you in Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC ("PINNTEL" or "Company") Lifeline service program in your state. This Certification is only for the purpose of verifying your eligibility for Lifeline service and will not be used for any other purpose. Service requests will not be processed until this Form has been received and verified by Company.

One Lifeline service per household disclosures: Lifeline is a government assistance program and willfully making false statements to obtain a Lifeline benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Lifeline benefits are limited to a single line of service per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household may not receive multiple Lifeline discounts. You may apply your Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both and you cannot receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Note that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person, including another eligible low-income consumer. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and potentially prosecution by the United States Government.

☐ I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above and that, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service benefit.

Customer eligibility certification: I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs (check one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (not Medicare) | <input type="checkbox"/> National School Lunch Program's free lunch program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines |

Customer Application Information:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Date of Birth: Month: ____ Day: ____ Year: _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: _____
If Qualifying for Lifeline by Income, number of Individuals in Household: _____
Home Telephone Number (if available): _____

Residential Address (P.O. Box NOT sufficient)

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Address is (choose one): ☐ Permanent ☐ Temporary

Billing Address (if different from Residential Address) (P.O. Box IS sufficient)

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Multiple households sharing and address:

- ☐ I hereby certify that I reside at an address occupied by multiple households, including adults who do not contribute income to my household and/or share in my household's expenses, and I will complete a separate additional form.

Activation and usage requirement disclosures: This service is a prepaid service and you must personally activate it by calling **855-968-5443**. To keep your account active, you must use your Lifeline service at least once during any 60 day period by completing an outbound call, purchasing additional minutes from Company, answering an in-bound call from someone other than Company, or by responding to a direct contact from Company confirming that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company. If your service goes unused for 60 days, you will no longer be eligible for Lifeline benefits and your service will be suspended (allowing only 911 calls and calls to the Company's customer care center) subject to a 30 day cure period during which you may use the service (as

described above) or contact the Company to confirm that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company.
☐ **I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above regarding activation and usage requirements.**

Authorizations:

- ☐ I hereby authorize the Company to access any records required to verify my statements on this form and to confirm my eligibility for the Lifeline program. I also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Lifeline program (e.g., name, telephone number and address), including to the Universal Service Administrative Company, to be used in a Lifeline database and to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline Program. Failure to consent will result in denial of service.

Additional certifications: I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that (check each box):

- ☐ I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline service and have provided documentation of eligibility if required
- ☐ I will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria, I begin receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit. I understand that I may be subject to penalties if I fail to follow this requirement
- ☐ I am not listed as a dependent on another person's tax return (unless over the age of 60)
- ☐ The address listed below is my primary residence, not a second home or business
- ☐ If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days
- ☐ If I provided a temporary residential address to the Company, I will verify my temporary residential address every 90 days
- ☐ I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law
- ☐ I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility within 30 days will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits
- ☐ The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For Agent Use Only (check the appropriate boxes for the proof of eligibility viewed and provide information requested; do not copy or retain documentation):

Documents Acceptable Proof for Income-Eligibility (check 1):

- ☐ The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return,
☐ Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub,
☐ A Social Security statement of benefits,
☐ A Veterans Administration statement of benefits,
☐ A retirement/pension statement of benefits,
☐ An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits,
☐ Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, or
☐ A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three consecutive months' time.

List B - Choose 1:

- ☐ Program participation card/document
☐ Prior year's statement of benefits
☐ Notice letter of participation
☐ Other official document evidencing participation _____

Last 4 digits of Document from List B _____

Date of Proof Document: ____/____/____

Expiration Date of Proof Document: ____/____/____

Documents Acceptable Proof for Program-Eligibility (choose 1 from each list A and B below):

List A - Choose 1

- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
☐ Medicaid
☐ Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
☐ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
☐ National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
☐ State Program 1
☐ State Program 2

Applicant Account Number	Rep/Agent Signature



**Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC
(State) Lifeline Wireless Service Application**



When Complete Mail or Fax Form to:
5400 Laurel Springs Parkway, Suite 404
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
Fax: 866-611-5443
Customer Service: 855-968-5433

A complete and signed Lifeline Service Application and Certification ("Certification") is required to enroll you in Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC ("PINNTEL" or "Company") Lifeline service program in your state. This Certification is only for the purpose of verifying your eligibility for Lifeline service and will not be used for any other purpose. Service requests will not be processed until this Form has been received and verified by Company.

One Lifeline service per household disclosures: Lifeline is a government assistance program and willfully making false statements to obtain a Lifeline benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Lifeline benefits are limited to a single line of service per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household may not receive multiple Lifeline discounts. You may apply your Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both and you cannot receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Note that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person, including another eligible low-income consumer. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and potentially prosecution by the United States Government.

☐ **I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above and that, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service benefit.**

Customer eligibility certification: I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs (**check one**):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid (not Medicare) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Administered TANF (TATNF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards) (Tribal) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National School Lunch Program's free lunch program | |

Tribal eligibility:

☐ I hereby certify that I reside on Federally-recognized Tribal lands.

Customer Application Information:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Date of Birth: Month: ____ Day: ____ Year: _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (or Tribal ID Number): _____
If Qualifying for Lifeline by Income, number of Individuals in Household: _____
Home Telephone Number (if available): _____

Residential Address (P.O. Box NOT sufficient)

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Address is (choose one): ☐ Permanent ☐ Temporary

Billing Address (if different from Residential Address) (P.O. Box IS sufficient)

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Multiple households sharing and address:

☐ I hereby certify that I reside at an address occupied by multiple households, including adults who do not contribute income to my household and/or share in my household's expenses, and I will complete a separate additional form.

Activation and usage requirement disclosures: This service is a prepaid service and you must personally activate it by calling **855-968-5443**. To keep your account active, you must use your Lifeline service at least once during any 60 day period by completing an outbound call, purchasing additional minutes from Company, answering an in-bound call from someone other than Company, or by responding to a direct contact from Company confirming that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company. If your service goes unused for 60 days, you will no longer be eligible for Lifeline benefits and your service will be suspended (allowing only 911 calls and calls to the Company's customer care center) subject to a 30 day cure period during which you may use the service (as described above) or contact the Company to confirm that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company.

☐ **I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above regarding activation and usage requirements.**

Authorizations:

☐ I hereby authorize the Company to access any records required to verify my statements on this form and to confirm my eligibility for the Lifeline program. I also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Lifeline program (e.g., name, telephone number and address), including to the Universal Service Administrative Company, to be used in a Lifeline database and to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline Program. Failure to consent will result in denial of service.

Additional certifications: I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that (check each box):

- ☐ I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline service and have provided documentation of eligibility if required
- ☐ I will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria, I begin receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit. I understand that I may be subject to penalties if I fail to follow this requirement
- ☐ I am not listed as a dependent on another person's tax return (unless over the age of 60)
- ☐ The address listed below is my primary residence, not a second home or business
- ☐ If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days
- ☐ If I provided a temporary residential address to the Company, I will verify my temporary residential address every 90 days
- ☐ I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law
- ☐ I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility within 30 days will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits
- ☐ The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For Agent Use Only (check the appropriate boxes for the proof of eligibility viewed and provide information requested; do not copy or retain documentation):

Documents Acceptable Proof for Income-Eligibility (check 1):

- ☐ The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return,
- ☐ Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub,
- ☐ A Social Security statement of benefits,
- ☐ A Veterans Administration statement of benefits,
- ☐ A retirement/pension statement of benefits,
- ☐ An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits,
- ☐ Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, or
- ☐ A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three consecutive months' time.

List B - Choose 1:

- ☐ Program participation card/document
- ☐ Prior year's statement of benefits
- ☐ Notice letter of participation
- ☐ Other official document evidencing participation _____

Last 4 digits of Document from List B _____

Date of Proof Document: ____/____/____

Expiration Date of Proof Document: ____/____/____

Documents Acceptable Proof for Program-Eligibility (choose 1 from each list A and B below):

List A - Choose 1

- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☐ Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- ☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ☐ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ☐ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ☐ National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- ☐ Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- ☐ Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA)
- ☐ Tribally Administered TANF (TATNF)
- ☐ Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)
- ☐ State Program 1
- ☐ State Program 2

Applicant Account Number	Rep/Agent Signature

EXHIBIT C



Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC (PINNTEL)
Lifeline Service Application
Income Eligibility Worksheet

Individuals in all states are able to enroll in the Lifeline program by demonstrating that their household's annual income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This table should be used to determine whether a Lifeline applicant is eligible for Lifeline service based on the number of individuals in the applicant's household and the applicant's household annual income:

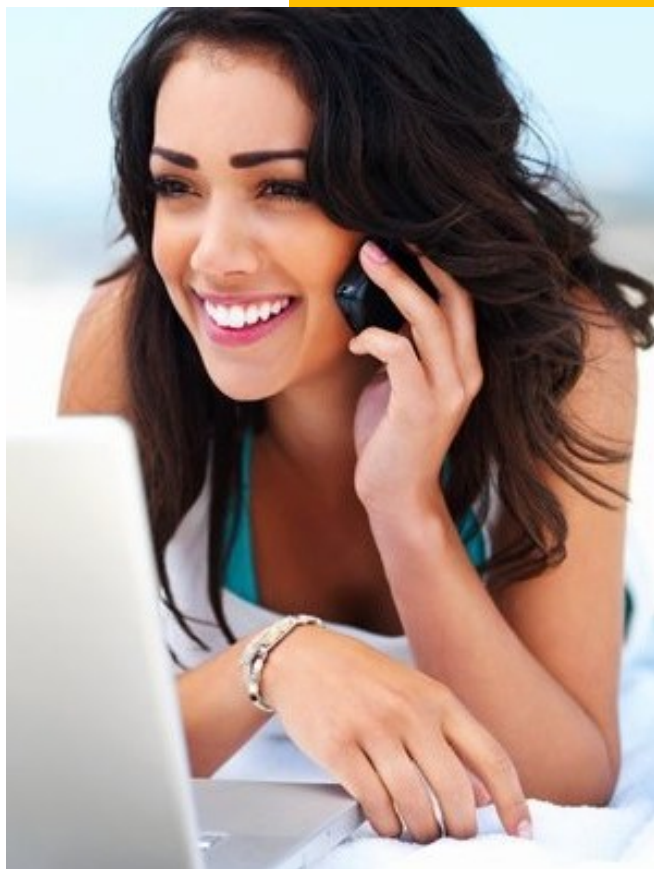
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$15,080
2	\$20,426
3	\$25,772
4	\$31,118
5	\$36,464
6	\$41,810
7	\$47,156
8	\$52,502
For each additional person	Add \$5,346

Applicants must list the number of individuals in the applicant's household on the Lifeline application form. Applicants seeking to qualify for Lifeline service based on their household income must present one of the following documents in order to prove eligibility:

- the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return
- current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
- a Social Security statement of benefits
- a Veterans Administration statement of benefits
- a retirement/pension statement of benefits
- an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
- Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- a divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time

This is a Lifeline service provided by Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC (PINNTEL). Lifeline is a government assistance program. Only one Lifeline service is available per household. Households are not permitted to receive multiple Lifeline benefits whether they are from one or multiple companies, wireless or wireline. Proof of eligibility is required for enrollment and only eligible customers may enroll in Lifeline service. Consumers who willingly make false statements to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. Lifeline customers may not transfer their benefits to any other person.

EXHIBIT D



Get Free Mobile Phone Service Today **FROM PINNTEL Today. It's Your-Life^(sm)**

PINNTEL brings FREE phone service to YOUR-LIFE today.

Would you like to receive free mobile phone service?
PINNTEL can bring it to you today. All you have to do is
call or click and we will let you know if you qualify. For
further details, turn to the back side of this postcard.



Pinnacle Telecommunications Group
5400 Laurel Springs Parkway
Suite 404
Suwanee, GA 30024

phone: 855-968-5433
mobile: 309-397-9036
fax: 866-611-5443
email: info@pinntel.com

This is a Lifeline service provided by Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC., which is an eligible telecommunications carrier. Lifeline is a government assistance program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. You may not transfer your benefit to any other person. Proof of eligibility is required and only eligible customers may enroll. Only one Lifeline service is available per household. Your household is not permitted to receive multiple Lifeline benefits whether they be from one or multiple companies. This includes wireline and wireless services.

CALL or click today if you qualify:

If you participate in at least one of the following government subsidized programs you may qualify for Lifeline service. Lifeline eligibility is limited to one per household.

- Food Stamps
- National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program (NSL)
- Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Income at or below 135 percent of Federal Poverty guidelines

Because it's YOUR-LIFE!



(855) YOU-LIFE, (855) 968-5433

www.pinntel.com/signup

Pinnacle Telecommunications Group
5400 Laurel Springs Parkway
Suite 404
Suwanee, GA 30024

phone: 855-968-5433
mobile: 309-397-9036
fax: 866-611-5443
email: info@pinntel.com

Please
place
stamp
here

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

This is a Lifeline service provided by Pinnacle Telecommunications Group, LLC., which is an eligible telecommunications carrier. Lifeline is a government assistance program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. You may not transfer your benefit to any other person. Proof of eligibility is required and only eligible customers may enroll. Only one Lifeline service is available per household. Your household is not permitted to receive multiple Lifeline benefits whether they be from one or multiple companies. This includes wireline and wireless services.

EXHIBIT E

Price	Services
\$ 54.99	Unlimited talk/text 1 GB Web 200 International Rollover
\$ 13.99	7 day plan Unlimited talk/tex 10 MB Web 50 International Rollover
\$ 22.99	15 day plan Unlimited talk/text 25 MB Web 50 International Rollover
\$ 29.99	Unlimited talk/text 25 MB Web 100 International Rollover
\$ 19.99	250 Minutes talk 500 text
\$ 29.99	250 Minutes Talk Unlimted Text 10 MB Web
\$ 39.99	Unlimited talk/text 25 MB Web 200 International Rollover
\$ 49.99	Unlimited talk/text 250 MB Web 200 International Rollover
\$ 9.25	250 Minutes talk/text
\$ 35.25	1,000 Minutes talk

EXHIBIT C

State	SAC	Study Area Name	Rural or Non-Rural
AL	255181	SO CENTRAL BELL-AL	Non-rural
AL	259788	CENTURYTEL-AL-SOUTH	Non-rural
AL	259789	CENTURYTEL-AL-NORTH	Non-rural
AL	250282	BLOUNTSVILLE TEL CO	Rural
AL	250283	BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN	Rural
AL	250284	BUTLER TEL CO	Rural
AL	250285	CASTLEBERRY TEL CO	Rural
AL	250286	NATIONAL OF ALABAMA	Rural
AL	250290	FARMERS TELECOM COOP	Rural
AL	250295	KNOLOGY TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS	Rural
AL	250298	GULF TEL CO - AL	Rural
AL	250299	HAYNEVILLE TEL CO	Rural
AL	250300	HOPPER TELECOM.CO	Rural
AL	250301	FRONTIER-LAMAR CNTY	Rural
AL	250302	WINDSTREAM AL	Rural
AL	250304	MILLRY TEL CO	Rural
AL	250305	MON-CRE TEL COOP	Rural
AL	250306	FRONTIER COMM.-AL	Rural
AL	250307	MOUNDVILLE TEL CO	Rural
AL	250308	NEW HOPE TEL COOP	Rural
AL	250311	OAKMAN TEL CO (TDS)	Rural
AL	250312	OTELCO TELEPHONE LLC	Rural
AL	250314	PEOPLES TEL CO	Rural
AL	250315	PINE BELT TEL CO	Rural
AL	250316	RAGLAND TEL CO	Rural
AL	250317	ROANOKE TEL CO	Rural
AL	250318	FRONTIER COMM-SOUTH	Rural
AL	250322	UNION SPRINGS TEL CO	Rural
CT	132454	THE WOODBURY TEL CO	Rural
CT	135200	SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND	Non-rural
DC	575020	VERIZON WA, DC INC.	Non-rural
DE	565010	VERIZON DELAWARE INC	Non-rural
FL	210328	VERIZON FLORIDA	Non-rural
FL	215191	FL SO. CENTRAL BELL	Non-rural
FL	210291	GTC, INC.	Rural
FL	210318	FRONTIER COMM-SOUTH	Rural
FL	210329	GTC, INC.	Rural
FL	210330	SMART CITY TEL LLC	Rural
FL	210331	ITS TELECOMM. SYS.	Rural
FL	210335	NORTHEAST FLORIDA	Rural
FL	210336	WINDSTREAM FL	Rural
FL	210338	QUINCY TEL CO-FL DIV	Rural
FL	210339	GTC, INC.	Rural
FL	210341	EMBARQ FLORIDA INC. FKA SPRINT	Rural
NC	230479	FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CAROLINAS, INC.	Non-rural

NC	230509	FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF THE CAROLINAS, INC.	Non-rural
NC	230864	VERIZON SOUTH INC. DBA NORTH CAROLINA	Non-rural
NC	235193	SOUTHERN BELL-NC	Non-rural
NC	230468	ATLANTIC MEMBERSHIP	Rural
NC	230469	BARNARDSVILLE TEL CO	Rural
NC	230470	CAROLINA TEL & TEL	Rural
NC	230471	CENTEL OF NC	Rural
NC	230473	CITIZENS TEL CO	Rural
NC	230474	CONCORD TEL CO	Rural
NC	230476	WINDSTREAM NC	Rural
NC	230478	ELLERBE TEL CO	Rural
NC	230483	LEXCOM TELEPHONE CO.	Rural
NC	230485	MEBTEL, INC.	Rural
NC	230491	N.ST. DBA N. ST.COMM	Rural
NC	230494	PINEVILLE TEL CO	Rural
NC	230495	RANDOLPH TEL CO	Rural
NC	230496	RANDOLPH MEMBERSHIP	Rural
NC	230497	PIEDMONT MEMBERSHIP	Rural
NC	230498	SALUDA MOUNTAIN TEL	Rural
NC	230500	SERVICE TEL CO	Rural
NC	230501	SKYLINE MEMBERSHIP	Rural
NC	230502	STAR MEMBERSHIP CORP	Rural
NC	230503	SURRY MEMBERSHIP	Rural
NC	230505	TRI COUNTY TEL MEMBR	Rural
NC	230510	WILKES MEMBERSHIP	Rural
NC	230511	YADKIN VALLEY TEL	Rural
NH	125113	NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE OPERATIONS LLC	Non-rural
NH	120038	BRETTON WOODS TEL CO	Rural
NH	120039	GRANITE STATE TEL	Rural
NH	120042	DIXVILLE TEL CO	Rural
NH	120043	DUNBARTON TEL CO	Rural
NH	120045	KEARSARGE TEL CO	Rural
NH	120047	MERRIMACK COUNTY TEL	Rural
NH	120049	UNION TEL CO	Rural
NH	120050	WILTON TEL CO - NH	Rural
NH	123321	MCTA, INC.	Rural
NY	150121	FRONTIER-ROCHESTER	Non-rural
NY	155130	VERIZON NEW YORK	Non-rural
NY	150071	ARMSTRONG TEL CO-NY	Rural
NY	150072	FRONTIER-AUSABLE VAL	Rural
NY	150073	BERKSHIRE TEL CORP	Rural
NY	150076	CASSADAGA TEL CORP	Rural
NY	150077	CHAMPLAIN TEL CO	Rural
NY	150078	CHAUTAUQUA & ERIE	Rural
NY	150079	CHAZY & WESTPORT	Rural
NY	150081	CITIZENS HAMMOND NY	Rural
NY	150084	TACONIC TEL CORP	Rural
NY	150085	CROWN POINT TEL CORP	Rural

NY	150088	DELHI TEL CO	Rural
NY	150089	DEPOSIT TEL CO	Rural
NY	150091	DUNKIRK & FREDONIA	Rural
NY	150092	EDWARDS TEL CO	Rural
NY	150093	EMPIRE TEL CORP	Rural
NY	150095	FISHERS ISLAND TEL	Rural
NY	150097	GERMANTOWN TEL CO	Rural
NY	150099	HANCOCK TEL CO	Rural
NY	150100	FRONTIER COMM OF NY	Rural
NY	150104	MARGARETVILLE TEL CO	Rural
NY	150105	MIDDLEBURGH TEL CO	Rural
NY	150106	WINDSTREAM NY-FULTON	Rural
NY	150107	NEWPORT TEL CO	Rural
NY	150108	NICHOLVILLE TEL CO	Rural
NY	150109	WINDSTREAM-JAMESTOWN	Rural
NY	150110	OGDEN TEL DBA FRNTER	Rural
NY	150111	ONEIDA COUNTY RURAL	Rural
NY	150112	ONTARIO TEL CO, INC.	Rural
NY	150113	WINDSTREAM RED JACKT	Rural
NY	150114	ORISKANY FALLS TEL	Rural
NY	150116	PATTERSONVILLE TEL	Rural
NY	150118	PORT BYRON TEL CO	Rural
NY	150121	FRONTIER-ROCHESTER	Rural
NY	150122	FRONTIER-SENECA GORH	Rural
NY	150125	STATE TEL CO	Rural
NY	150128	FRONTIER-SYLVAN LAKE	Rural
NY	150129	TOWNSHIP TEL CO	Rural
NY	150131	TRUMANSBURG TEL CO.	Rural
NY	150133	VERNON TEL CO	Rural
NY	150135	WARWICK VALLEY-NY	Rural
NY	154532	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-NY	Rural
NY	154533	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-NY	Rural
NY	154534	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-NY	Rural
TN	290280	ARDMORE TEL CO	Rural
TN	290552	CENTURYTEL-ADAMSVILL	Rural
TN	290553	BEN LOMAND RURAL	Rural
TN	290554	BLED SOE TEL COOP	Rural
TN	290557	CENTURY-CLAIBORNE	Rural
TN	290559	CONCORD TEL EXCHANGE	Rural
TN	290561	CROCKETT TEL CO	Rural
TN	295185	SO. CENTRAL BELL -TN	Non-rural
TN	290562	DEKALB TEL COOP	Rural
TN	290565	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN	Rural
TN	290566	HUMPHREY'S COUNTY	Rural
TN	290567	UNITED INTER-MT-TN	Rural
TN	290570	LORETTO TEL CO	Rural
TN	290571	MILLINGTON TEL CO	Rural
TN	290573	NORTH CENTRAL COOP	Rural

TN	290574	CENTURYTEL-OOLTEWAH	Rural
TN	290575	TENNESSEE TEL CO	Rural
TN	290576	PEOPLES TEL CO	Rural
TN	290578	TELLICO TEL CO	Rural
TN	290579	TWIN LAKES TEL COOP	Rural
TN	290580	CTZENS-FRNTR-VOL ST	Rural
TN	290581	UTC OF TN	Rural
TN	290583	WEST TENNESSEE TEL	Rural
TN	290584	YORKVILLE TEL COOP	Rural
TN	290598	WEST KENTUCKY RURAL TELEPHONE	Rural
TN	294336	CITIZENS-FRONTIER-TN	Rural
TX	441163	WINDSTREAM SW-TX#1	Non-Rural
TX	442084	UTC OF TEXAS INC	Non-Rural
TX	442097	WINDSTREAM KERRVILLE	Non-Rural
TX	442109	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS OF TEXAS COMPANY	Non-Rural
TX	442114	CENDEL OF TEXAS	Non-Rural
TX	442147	WINDSTREAM SUGARLAND	Non-Rural
TX	442153	TEXAS WINDSTREAM	Non-Rural
TX	440425	CAMERON TELEPHONE COMPANY LLC	Rural
TX	442038	BLOSSOM TELEPHONE CO. INC.	Rural
TX	442039	BIG BEND TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
TX	442040	BRAZORIA TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
TX	442041	BRAZOS TEL COOP INC	Rural
TX	442043	NORTH TEXAS TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
TX	442046	CAP ROCK TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442052	CENTRAL TEXAS TELEPHONE COOP INC.	Rural
TX	442057	COLEMAN COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442059	COLORADO VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442060	COMANCHE COUNTY TEL	Rural
TX	442061	COMMUNITY TELEPHONE CO. INC.	Rural
TX	442065	CUMBY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442066	DELL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC. (TX)	Rural
TX	442068	EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442069	ELECTRA TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
TX	442070	ETEX TELEPHONE COOP. INC.	Rural
TX	442071	FIVE AREA TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442072	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS OF FORT BEND COMPANY	Rural
TX	442073	BORDER TO BORDER COMMUNICATIONS INC.	Rural
TX	442076	GANADO TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
TX	442083	GUADALUPE VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442086	HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442090	ALENCO COMMUNICATIONS INC.	Rural
TX	442091	ETC TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
TX	442093	INDUSTRY TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
TX	442103	LA WARD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE INC.	Rural
TX	442103	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE	Rural
TX	442104	LAKE LIVINGSTON TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural

TX	442105	LIPAN TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
TX	442107	LIVINGSTON TELEPHONE COMPANY INC.	Rural
TX	442112	MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442116	MUENSTER TELEPHONE CORPORATION OF TEXAS DBA NORTEX	Rural
TX	442117	CENTURYLINK CENTURYTEL OF PORT ARANSAS INC.	Rural
TX	442130	PEOPLES TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442131	POKA LAMBRO TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442134	RIVIERA TELEPHONE CO. INC.	Rural
TX	442135	SOUTHWEST TEXAS TELEPHONE CO.	Rural
TX	442140	CENTURYLINK CENTURYTEL OF SAN MARCOS INC.	Rural
TX	442141	SANTA ROSA TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442143	SOUTH PLAINS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442150	TATUM TELEPHONE COMPANY	Rural
TX	442151	TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442159	VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442166	WEST TEXAS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442168	WES-TEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
TX	442170	XIT RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC.	Rural
VA	195040	VERIZON VIRGINIA INC	Non-rural
VA	190233	VERIZON S-VA (CONTEL)	Non-rural
VA	190217	AMELIA TEL CORP	Rural
VA	190219	BUGGS ISLAND COOP	Rural
VA	190220	BURKE'S GARDEN TEL	Rural
VA	190225	CITIZENS TEL COOP	Rural
VA	190226	NTELOS, INC.	Rural
VA	190237	HIGHLAND TEL COOP	Rural
VA	190238	MGW TEL. CO. INC.	Rural
VA	190239	NEW HOPE TEL COOP	Rural
VA	190243	PEMBROKE TEL COOP	Rural
VA	190244	PEOPLES MUTUAL TEL	Rural
VA	190248	SCOTT COUNTY COOP	Rural
VA	190249	ROANOKE & BOTETOURT	Rural
VA	190250	SHENANDOAH TEL CO	Rural
VA	190253	VIRGINIA TEL CO	Rural
VA	190254	CENTEL OF VIRGINIA	Rural
VA	190479	VERIZON SOUTH-VA	Rural
VA	190567	UNITED INTER-MT-VA	Rural
VA	193029	NEW CASTLE TEL. CO.	Rural
VA	197251	SHENANDOAH TELEPHONE COMPANY - NR	Rural

EXHIBIT D

Price	Services
\$ 54.99	Unlimited talk/text 1 GB Web 200 International Rollover
\$ 13.99	7 day plan Unlimited talk/tex 10 MB Web 50 International Rollover
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\$ 29.99	250 Minutes Talk Unlimted Text 10 MB Web
\$ 39.99	Unlimited talk/text 25 MB Web 200 International Rollover
\$ 49.99	Unlimited talk/text 250 MB Web 200 International Rollover
\$ 9.25	250 Minutes talk/text
\$ 35.25	1,000 Minutes talk